Kazuhiro Fujita

presents

The Black Museum

The Ghost and the Lady

BOOK ONE

The Black Museum

The Ghost and the Lady

1

Kazuhiro Fujita

The Black Museum

WILL ON THIS DAY PRESENT THE TRAGEDY CALLED

The Ghost and the Lady

Volume 1

chapter 1 ~ The Ghost Meets the Lady 1

chapter 2 ~ The Ghost Listens to the Lady 43

chapter 3 ~ The Ghost is Taken by the Lady's First Performance 79

chapter 4 ~ The Ghost Trembles and the Lady Illuminates 111

chapter 5 ~ The Ghost Goes to the Lady's Hospital 131

chapter 6 ~ The Ghost Goes to the Battlefield with the Lady 151

chapter 7 ~ The Ghost Hears the Lady Take a Stand 171

chapter 8 ~ The Ghost Waits for the Lady's Scene 191

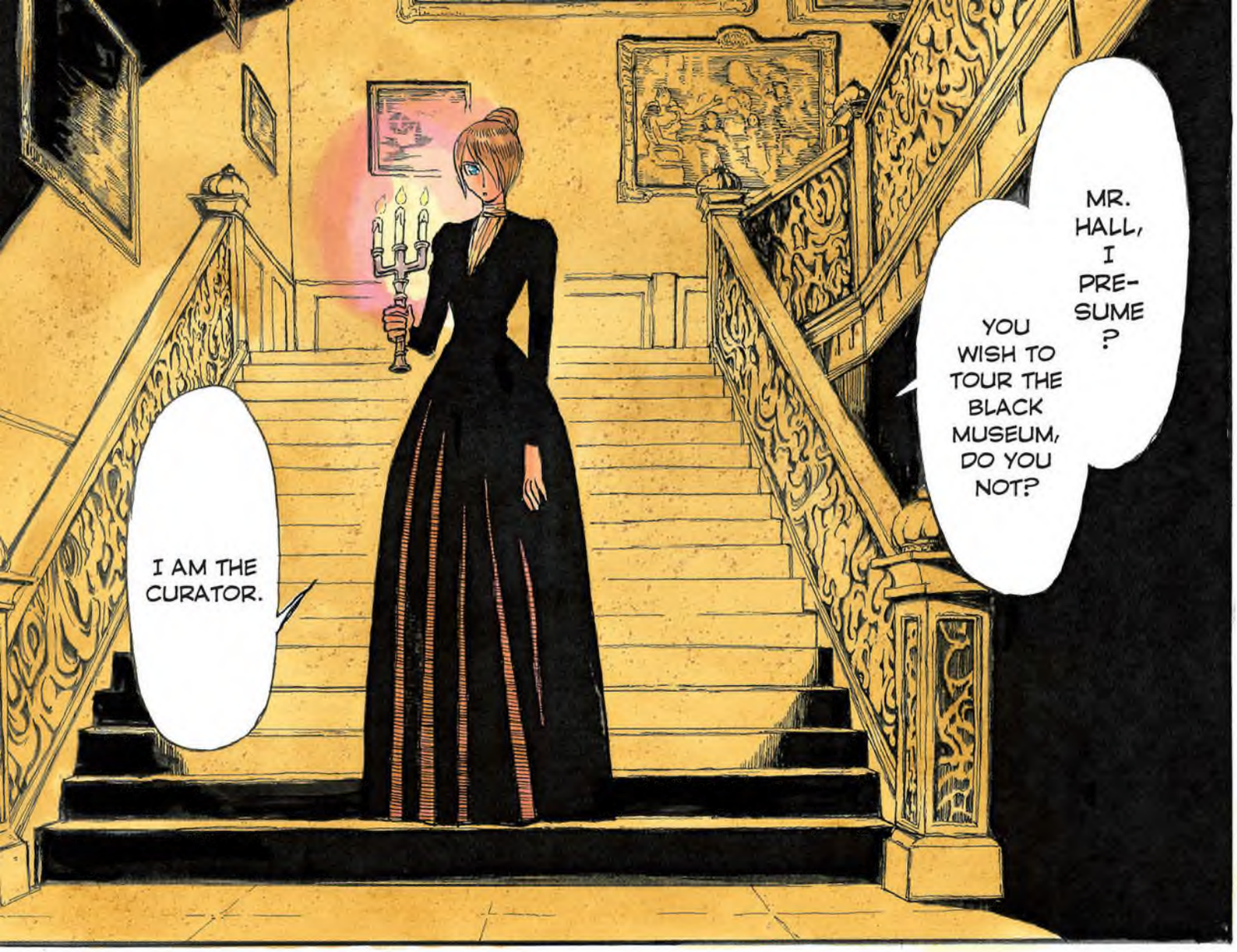
chapter 9 ~ The Ghost Sees the Lady Go to War 209

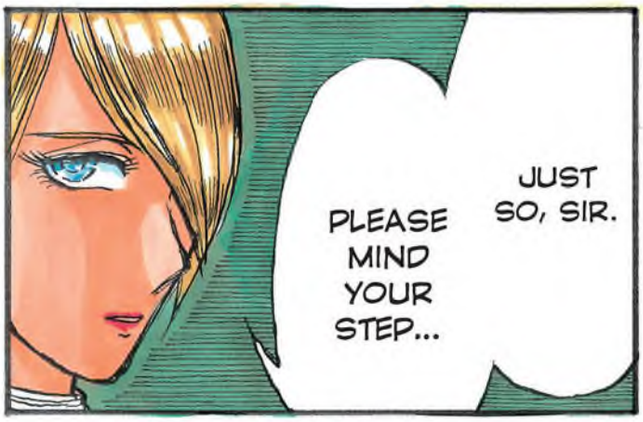
chapter 10 ~ The Ghost and the Lady Meet d'Éon 227

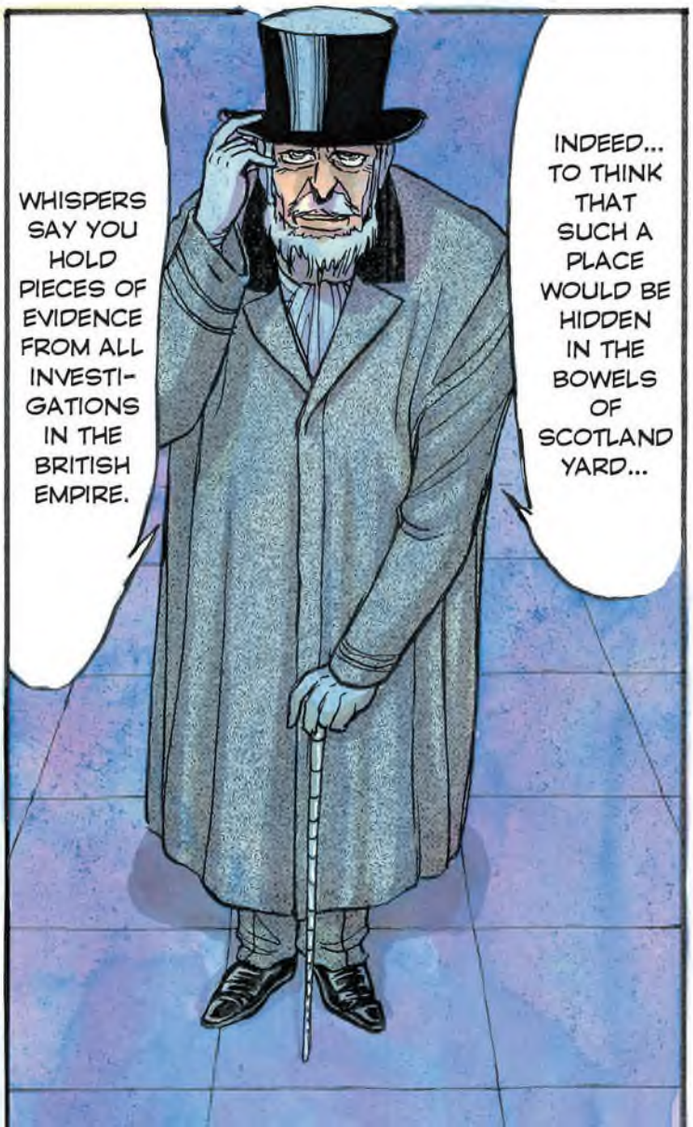
chapter 11 ~ The Lady Witnesses the Ghost's Clash 245

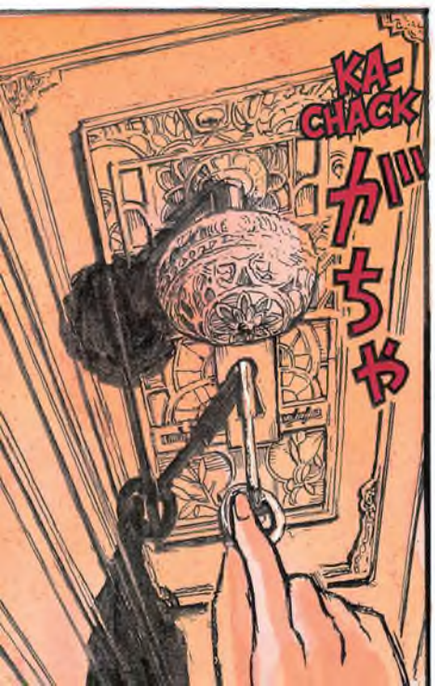
chapter 12 ~ The Ghost Tells the Lady His Story 263

chapter 13 ~ The Lady Hears of the Ghost's Death 281


MR. HALL, I PRE-SUME?
YOU WISH TO TOUR THE BLACK MUSEUM, DO YOU NOT?
I AM THE CURATOR.


JUST SO, SIR.
PLEASE MIND YOUR STEP...


INDEED... TO THINK THAT SUCH A PLACE WOULD BE HIDDEN IN THE BOWELS OF SCOTLAND YARD...
WHISPERS SAY YOU HOLD PIECES OF EVIDENCE FROM ALL INVESTI-GATIONS IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.


KA-CHACK
カチャ

CREAK
キシ
CREAK
キシ
IT IS RATHER HOT. JUST AS EXPECTED FOR AUGUST.

The Black Museum

The Ghost and the Lady

1

Kazuhiro Fujita

...″THE COLLIDED BULLETS OF *THE MAN IN GREY* ...″

ギィイ CREEE イ

A Head-on Collision of the Two Bullets

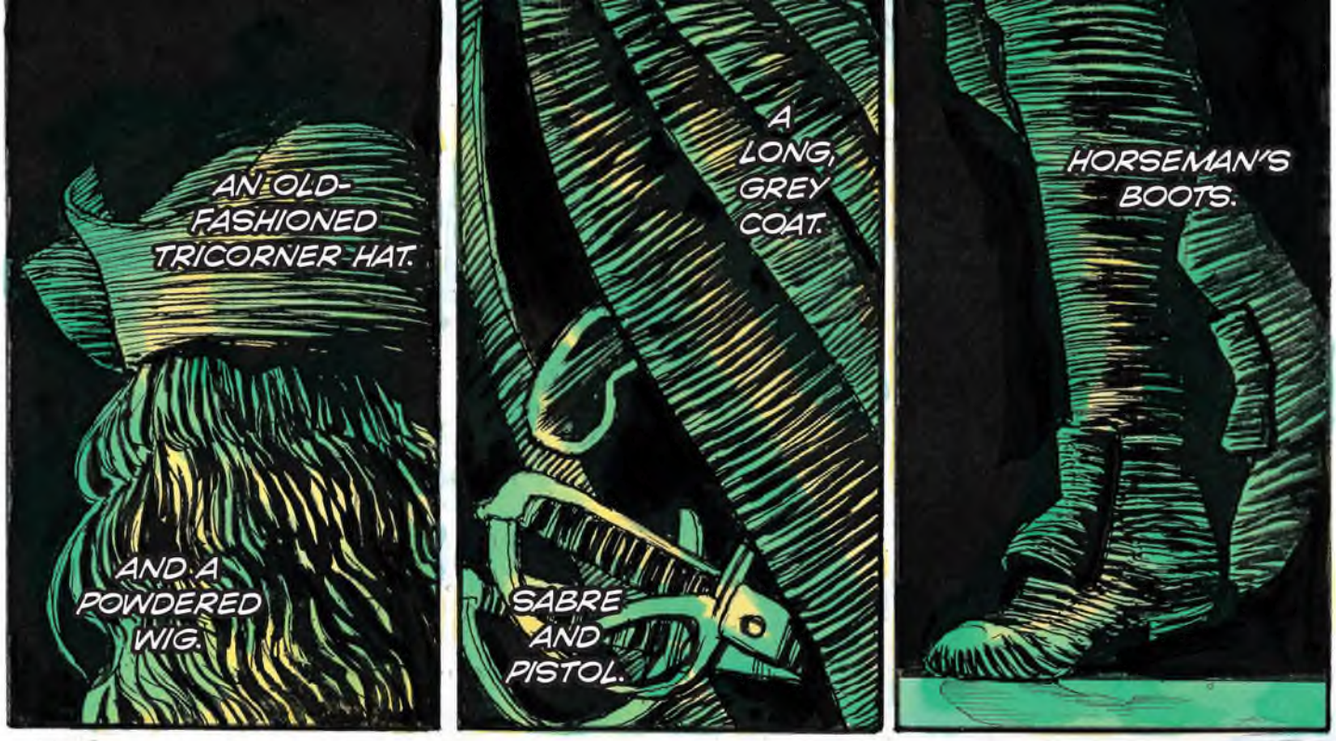
chapter 1

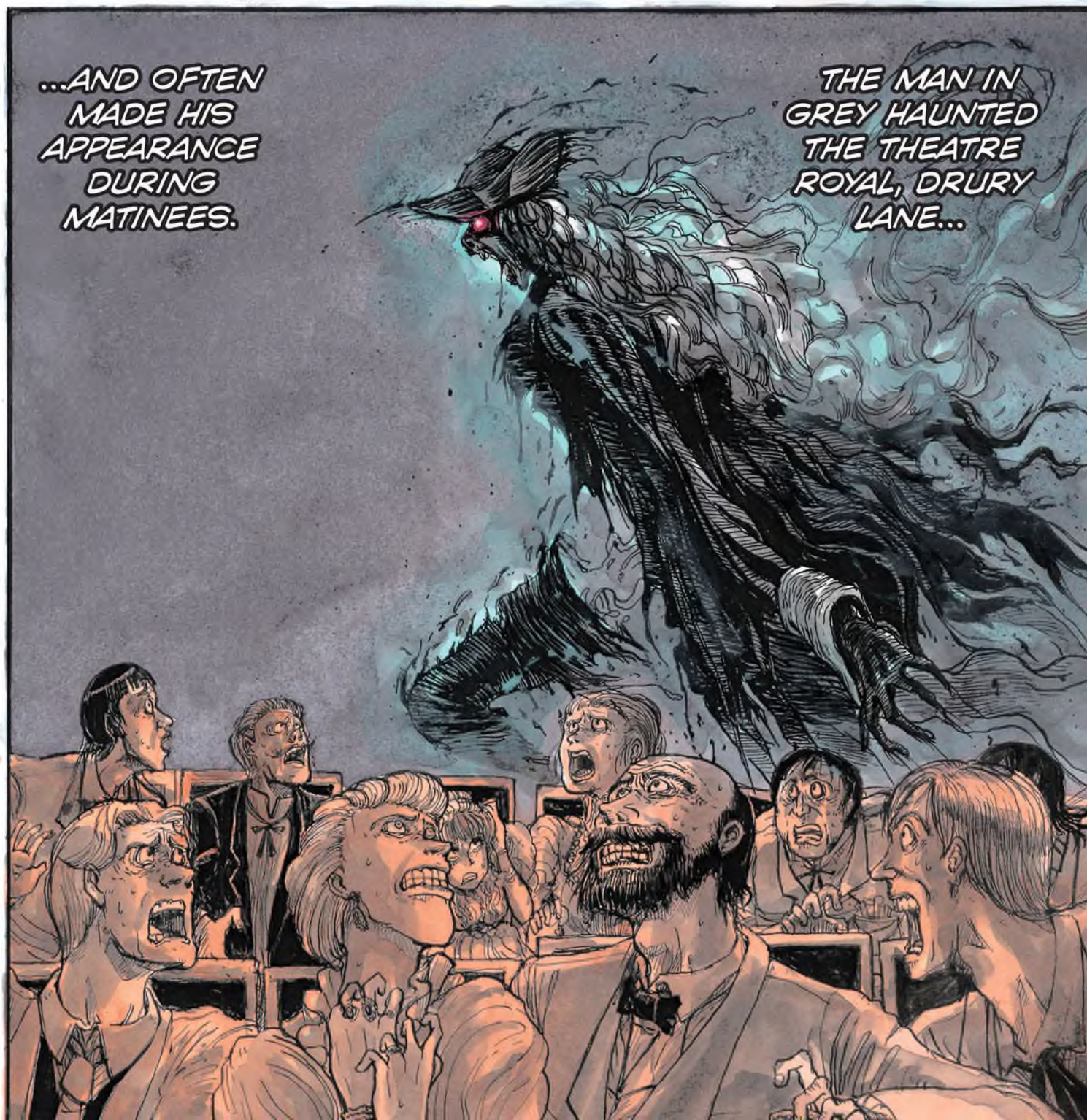
THE GHOST MEETS THE LADY

THIS IS WHAT YOU SEEK... IT WAS COLLECTED IN 1856...

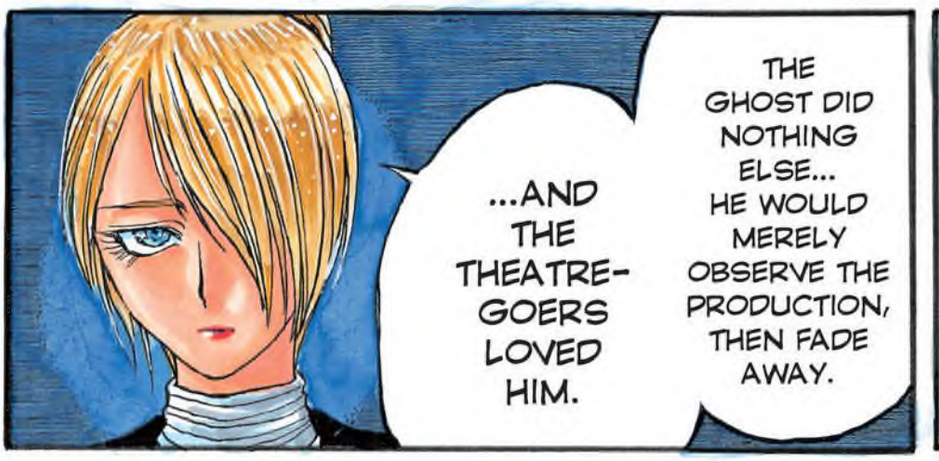
IT IS SAID THAT A GHOST LEFT THEM ON A SEAT IN THE THEATRE.

THE REMNANTS OF A HEAD-ON COLLISION BETWEEN TWO BULLETS. THESE HAVE BEEN NAMED ...


AN OLD-FASHIONED TRICORNER HAT.
AND A POWDERED WIG.
A LONG, GREY COAT.
SABRE AND PISTOL.
HORSEMAN'S BOOTS.


...AND OFTEN MADE HIS APPEARANCE DURING MATINEES.
THE MAN IN GREY HAUNTED THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE...

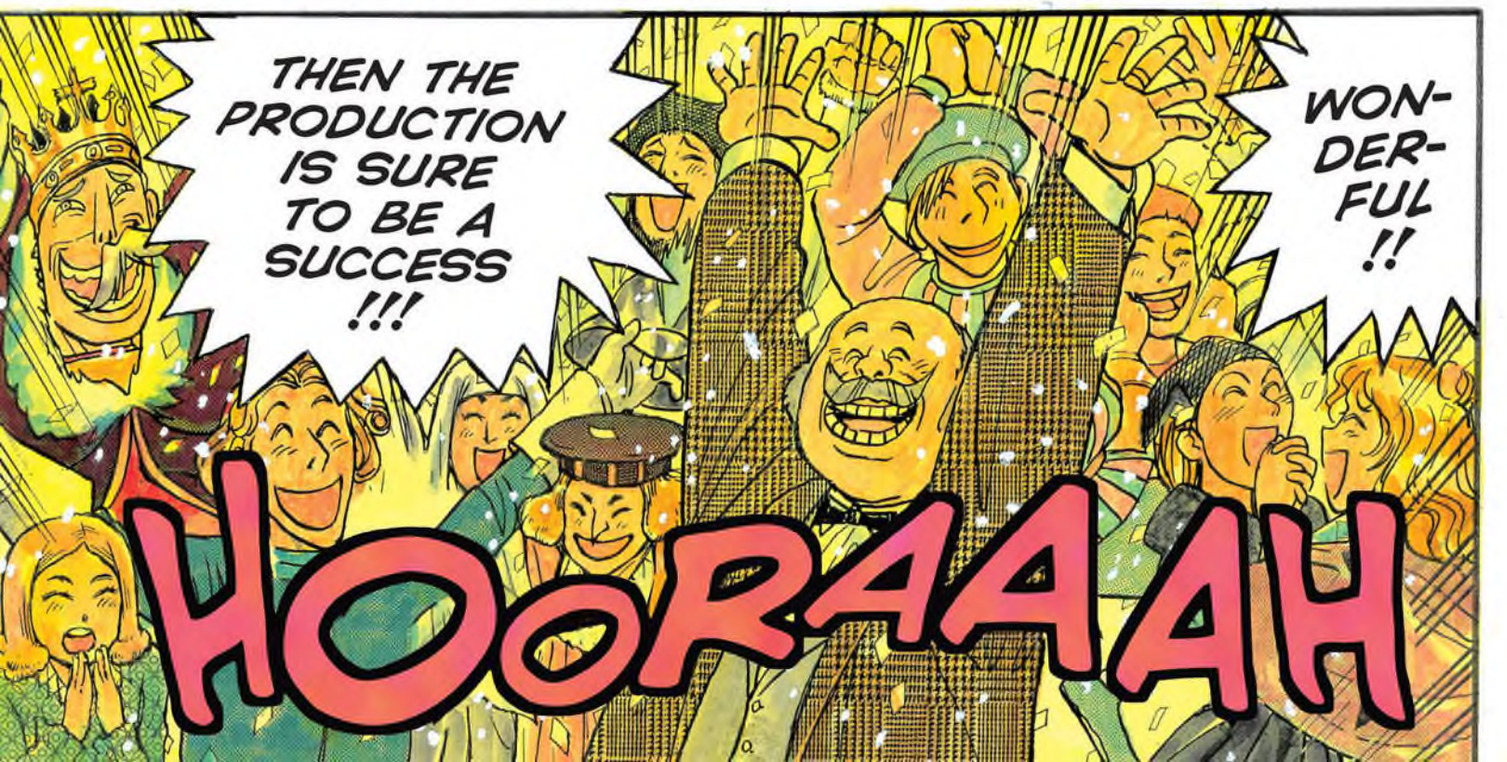
...UNTIL HE REACHED THE OPPOSITE WALL NEAR THE ROYAL BOX...
...SLOWLY PASS BEHIND THE SEATS...
...THEN HE WOULD STAND UP...
"HE" WOULD SIT FOR SOME TIME IN ROW D OF THE UPPER CIRCLE...

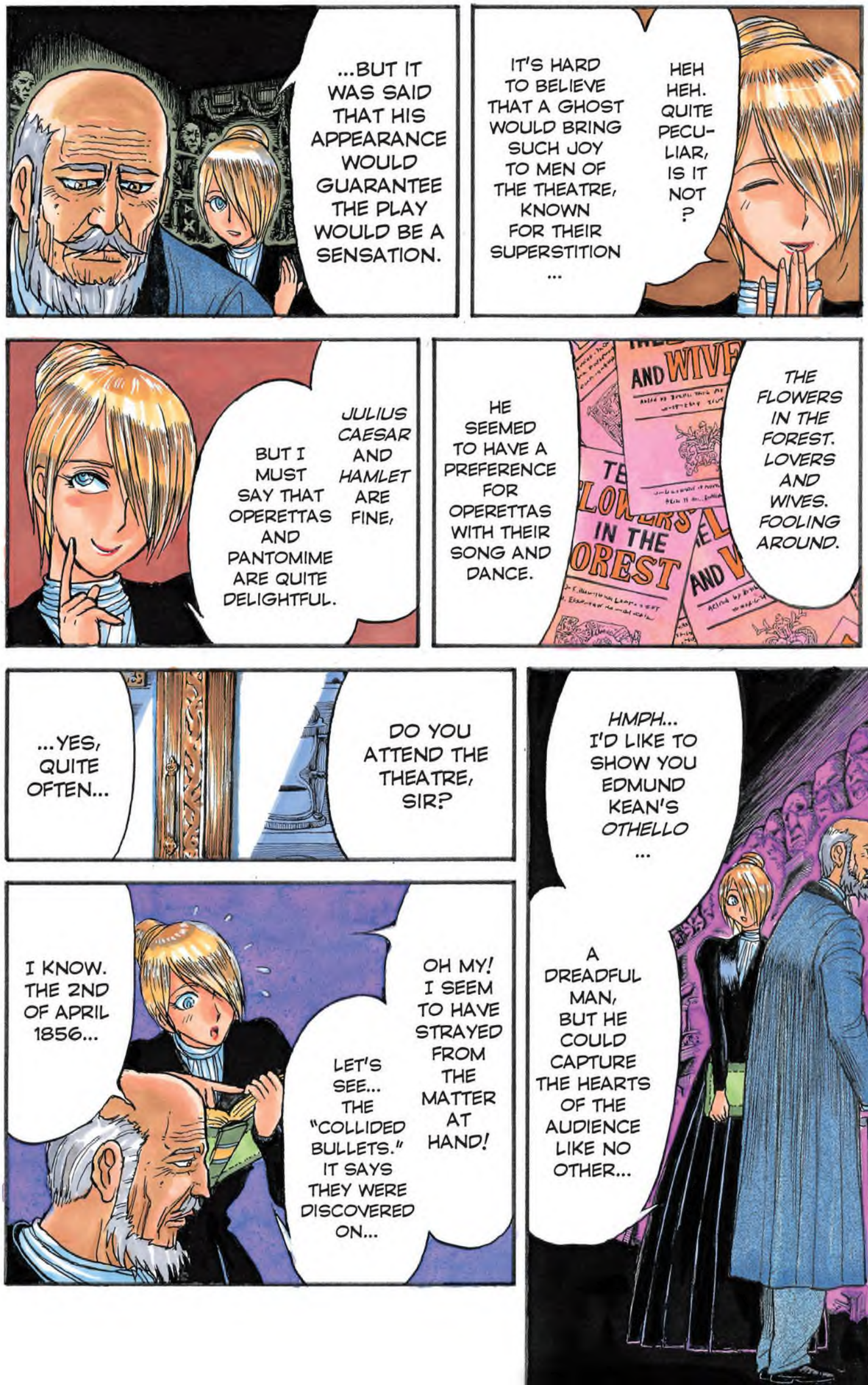

...AND THE THEATRE-GOERS LOVED HIM.
THE GHOST DID NOTHING ELSE... HE WOULD MERELY OBSERVE THE PRODUCTION, THEN FADE AWAY.

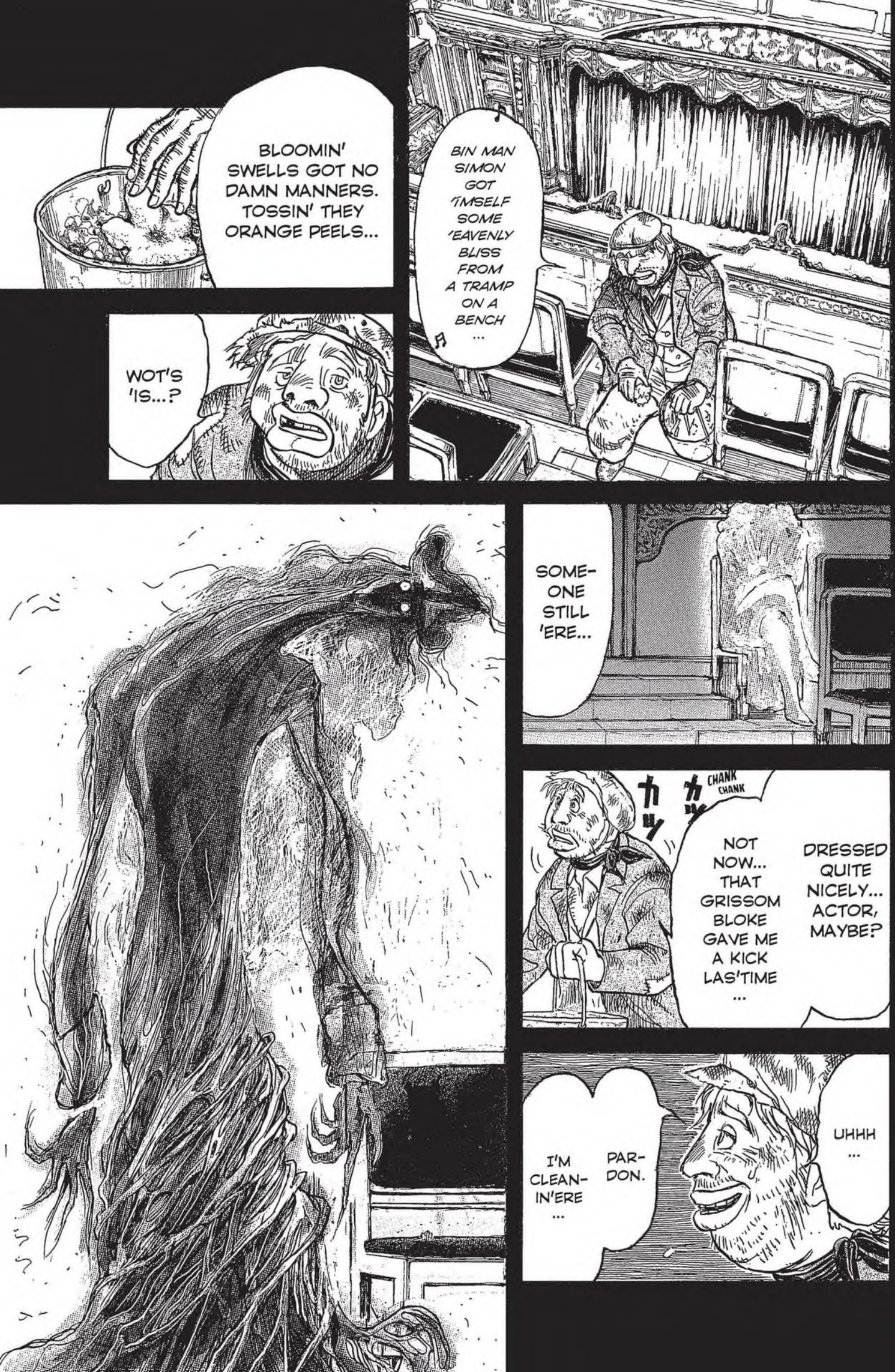
...AND DISAPPEAR.

HE SHOWED HIM-SELF ?!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?! THE MAN IN GREY ?!


THEN THE PRODUCTION IS SURE TO BE A SUCCESS !!!
WON-DER-FUL !!
HOORAAAH


...BUT IT WAS SAID THAT HIS APPEARANCE WOULD GUARANTEE THE PLAY WOULD BE A SENSATION.
HEH HEH. QUITE PECULIAR, IS IT NOT?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A GHOST WOULD BRING SUCH JOY TO MEN OF THE THEATRE, KNOWN FOR THEIR SUPERSTITION ...
JULIUS CAESAR AND HAMLET ARE FINE,
BUT I MUST SAY THAT OPERETTAS AND PANTOMIME ARE QUITE DELIGHTFUL.
THE FLOWERS IN THE FOREST. LOVERS AND WIVES. FOOLING AROUND.
HE SEEMED TO HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR OPERETTAS WITH THEIR SONG AND DANCE.
...YES, QUITE OFTEN...
DO YOU ATTEND THE THEATRE, SIR?
HMPH... I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU EDMUND KEAN'S OTHELLO ...
A DREADFUL MAN, BUT HE COULD CAPTURE THE HEARTS OF THE AUDIENCE LIKE NO OTHER...
I KNOW. THE 2ND OF APRIL 1856...
LET'S SEE... THE "COLLIDED BULLETS." IT SAYS THEY WERE DISCOVERED ON...
OH MY! I SEEM TO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE MATTER AT HAND!


BLOOMIN' SWELLS GOT NO DAMN MANNERS. TOSSIN' THEY ORANGE PEELS...
WOT'S 'IS...?
BIN MAN SIMON GOT 'IMSELF SOME 'EAVENLY BLISS FROM A TRAMP ON A BENCH ...
SOME-ONE STILL 'ERE...
CHANK CHANK
NOT NOW... THAT GRISSOM BLOKE GAVE ME A KICK LAS'TIME ...
DRESSED QUITE NICELY... ACTOR, MAYBE?
UHHH ...
PAR-DON.
I'M CLEAN-IN'ERE ...

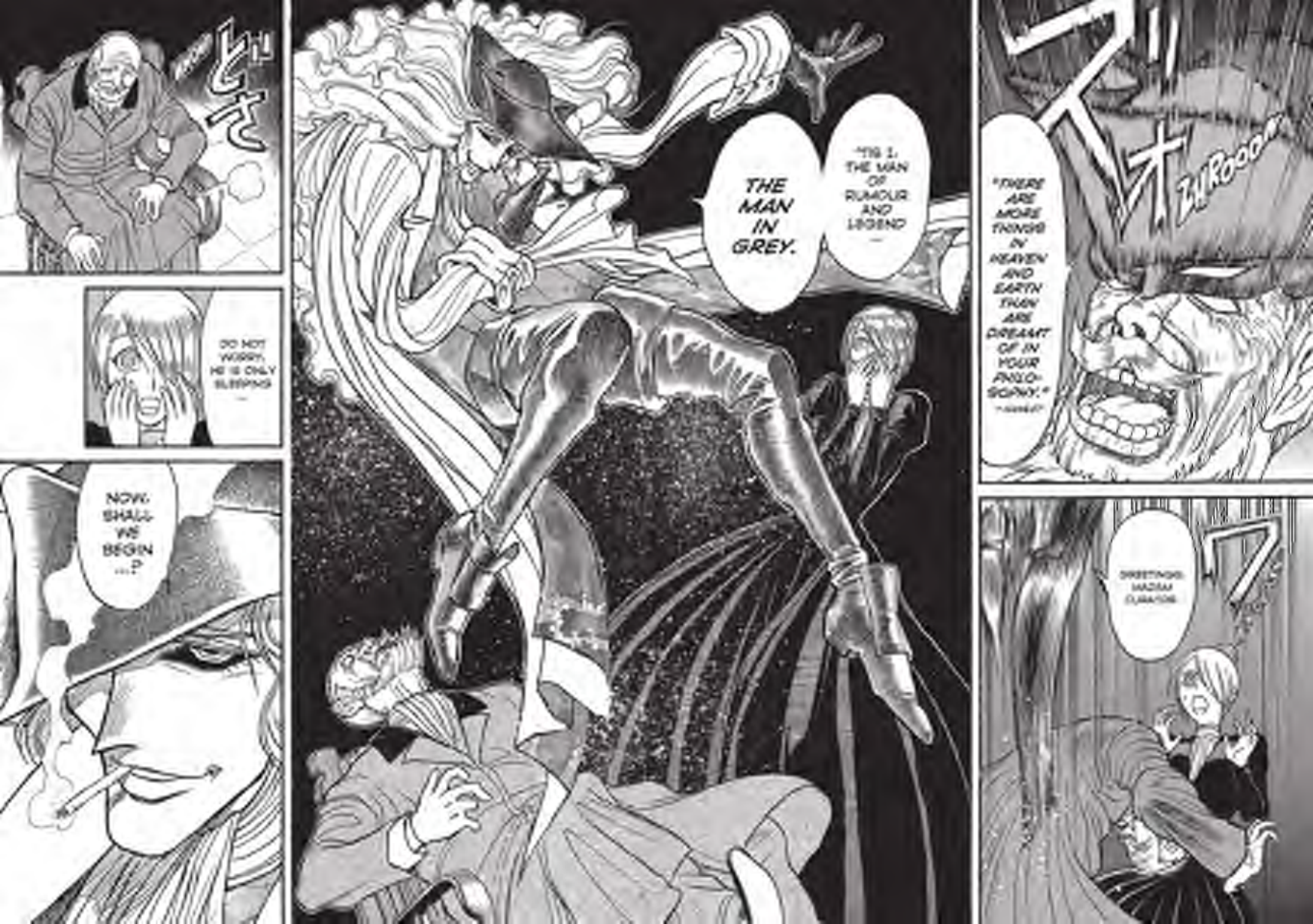
W... WHAT'S TO EAT?
SHUDDER
NO... I CAN'T
HOLDING MY THUMB IN MY EAR...

BUT IF 300,000 BULLETS CAN FLY ACROSS A BATTLEFIELD DURING A SINGLE ENGAGEMENT... A MIRACLE LIKE THIS COULD OCCUR...
...A TALE IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE.

THE "COLLIDED BULLETS"... AN OBJECT SHROUDED IN MYSTERY...
THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE TWO BULLETS THAT COLLIDED IN MID-AIR, FUSED TOGETHER BY MUTUAL HEAT.

THE CHANCES OF IT WOULD BE A BILLION TO ONE...
OR SO I WAS TAUGHT BACK ON BASIC BATTLE-FIELD...

IF I TELL YOU OF ITS ORIGIN...
WILL YOU GRANT ME A REQUEST?
ARE YOU AFRAID YOU KNOW WHAT BATTLE THIS OBJECT IS FROM?
YES!
OF COURSE!
ALL I KNOW OF THESE BULLETS IS THAT THEY WERE LEFT BEHIND BY A GHOST! I KNOW NOTHING ELSE!
RIGHT, THEN... IF YOU COULD FETCH A CHAIR FOR THIS OLD MAN...
HORATIO!
AND WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST...?
BUT, SIR, WHY...?
UHF... THAT


DO NOT WORRY. HE IS ONLY SLEEPING.
NOW. SHALL WE BEGIN ...?
"I'M I, THE MAN OF RUMOUR AND LEGEND."
THE MAN IN GREY.
"THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH THAN ARE DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY."
GREETINGS, HAZAMA CURATOR.

Heeee!!
AGH
...
HEY NOW...
...HE'S ONLY A BACKUP !!
COMPOSE YOURSELF! YOU CURATE THE BLACK MUSEUM! YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR NITE OVER THIS...
VERY WELL. LET'S START WITH YOUR STORY...
HEH HEH...

"...LOTS ARE DRAWN, AND THE WINNER DETERMINES WHERE THE PRINCIPALS SHALL STAND."
ACCORDING TO THE CODE DUELLO, THE ART OF DUELLING...
"IN A DUEL OF PISTOLS, PRINCIPALS MUST WALK A MINIMUM OF 15 PACES BEFORE DRAWING."

"IT IS ALSO BEST TO HAVE A THICKET OR VINE AT ONE'S BACK."
"WHEN CHOOSING A PLACE, CONSIDER A POSITION WHERE SUNLIGHT WILL NOT SHINE UPON THE FACE."

THE DUELLIST MUST

READY!

BANG
"IN THE OLD DAYS, CHALLENGERS FIRED FIRST. LATER, [illegible] OUR RIGS BECAME STANDARD."
FIRE !!
"THE SECOND STANDS 8 YARDS FROM THE FIRING LINE AND GIVES THE SIGNAL."
"THE RATE OF DEATH: 1 IN 14."
THAT IS TO SAY, THOSE WHO DIED IN SUCH DUELS...
"THE CHANCE OF A BULLET STRIKING ITS TARGET IS 1 IN 6."
...WERE JUST UNLUCKY BASTARDS.
BANG

DUELS
AS A PROFESSIONAL DUELLIST...
...I WAS FAIRLY SKILLED.
QUEEN VICTORIA ABHORRED THE PRACTICE... SO SHE DECREED IT ILLEGAL IN 1842.
THAT SPOILSPORT...
"SWORDS ARE WIELDED WITH ONLY THE RIGHT HAND— THE LEFT ARM MUST NEVER INTERFERE."
"FOR SWORD DUELLING, THE BLADES MUST BE EQUAL IN LENGTH."

I THINK I LIVED FOR DUELLING.
YOU SAID YOU HERE A... VERY PERSONAL PUBLISH* ...P
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT. (HA-HA-HA)
SEE, WHEN ONE IDIOT WOULD "RESEARCH THE HONOUR" OF SOME OTHER IDIOT, A DEMAND FOR SATISFACTION WOULD BE MADE.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE...
THOSE WITH ANY DEGREE OF SKILL MIGHT STAND A CHANCE.
BUT A WEAK-LIMBED IDIOT HAS NO HOPE.
SO YOU'VE PROBABLY THOUGHT, "WHY NOT CALL IT OFF?" BUT TO FINISH A DUEL IS TO MAKE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A LAUGHING STOCK AND TO LOSE ALL SINCERITY.
BUT EVEN IDIOTS KNOW TO FEAR A DUEL.
THOSE WHO REFUSED MY SERVICES WOULD OBSESSIVELY BRING ME MONEY AT NIGHT.
IN THIS CASE, THEY WOULD HIRE A PROFESSIONAL TO STAND IN THEIR PLACE.

THERE WAS A DUEL THAT YOU LOST...
SO... THAT MEANS... WELL, THIS IS A BIT HARD TO SAY. BUT...

AYE... BUT I QUICKLY BECAME A "PRESENT REJECTOR" OR "SOON COMMANDICALF AS REQUIRED.
YOU FOUGHT FOR ABSOLUTE STRANGERS...?

BUT WHY HAUNT THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE?

I DID REMEMBER MY TIME AMONG THE LIVING —
BUT ALTHOUGH I REMEMBER IT NOW, IN THOSE DAYS I SIMPLY COULD NOT REMEMBER MY DEATH.
TO SOMEHOW FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT...

"A FOOL, A FOOL, I MET A FOOL I' TH' FOREST!"
—HAS YOU LIKE IT.

AS TO THE MATTER OF MY DEATH...

THAT TIL UNTIL I BECAME INVOLVED —
—WITH THAT BOTHER-SOME WOMAN.
AHH...
SO YOU HAD FORGOTTEN HOW YOU DIED?
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London
The 7th of November 1852
ONA-ACCOUNTED WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE!
WHOA! WHOA!

LET US AT LEAST GO WITH YOU...
MISTRESSES PARTHE AND FANNY GAVE YOU STRICT ORDERS NOT TO DO THIS!

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MY MOTHER OR SISTER ARE THINKING.
THEY TREAT ME AS IF THEY ARE MY PRISON GUARDS.

...

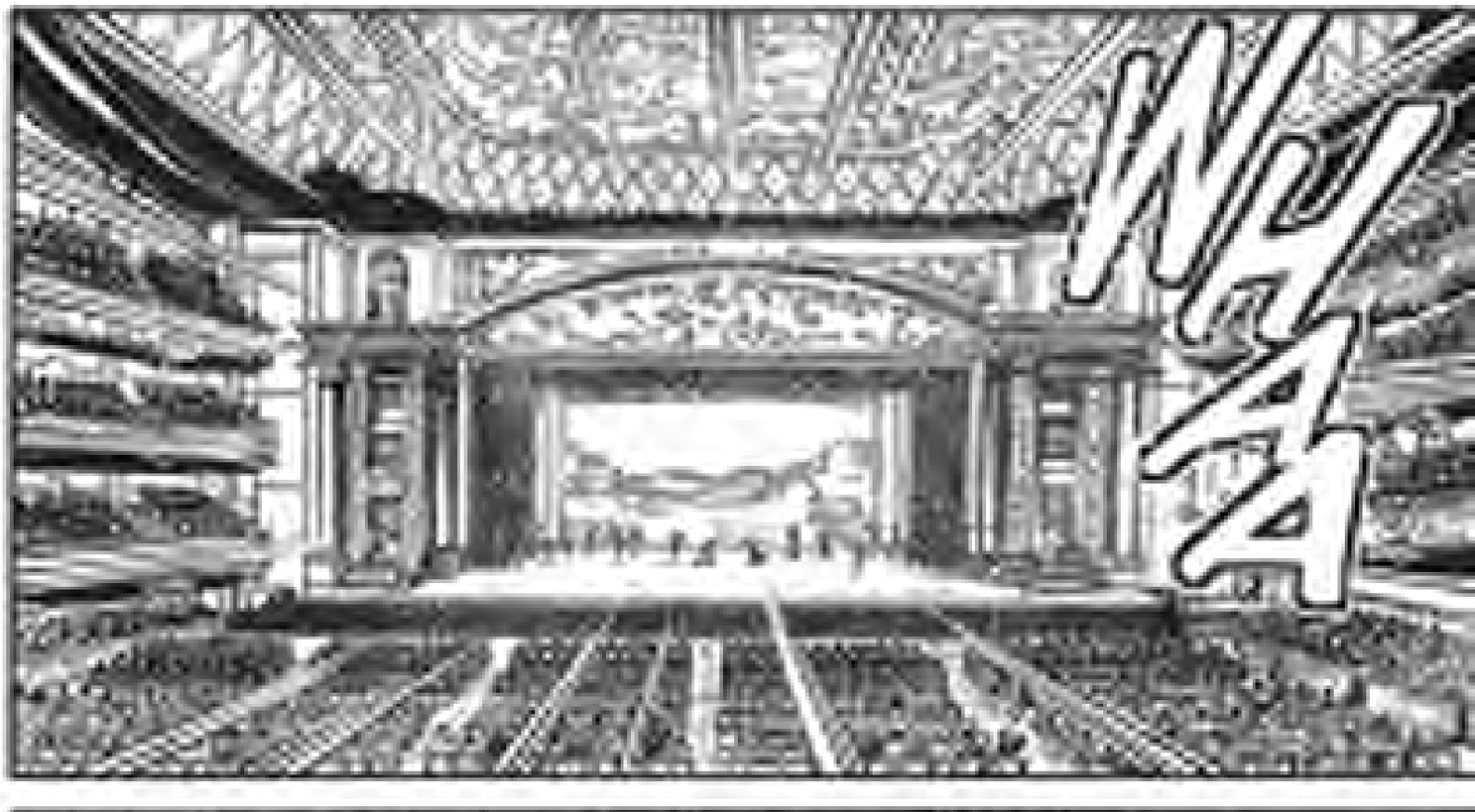
ハイ

THAT BLOKY FOOL!
HA HA HA! OLD MAN PHILLIPS AT IT AGAIN!
THAT GENT IN GREY. SOMETHING IN THEIR NATURE...
HE KNOWING. HE DID...

いぃあ
FWISH

EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION CAUSES FATIGUE AND MALAISE
WOT... WOTTER YA DOIN'?

WHA... WHO?
PLEASE... DO TAKE CARE...


WHA

WHOOHOO

SILENCE.

...WITH THEIR LEERS, ENCORES, AND SILLY ALLEGIANCE...
I PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE VILLAGE IDIOCY...
THAT'S WHY I LIKE THE THEATRE.

AS THEY WATCH THE PLAY, THEY'RE JUST SO QUIET...

THE NOISE DEAFENS ME

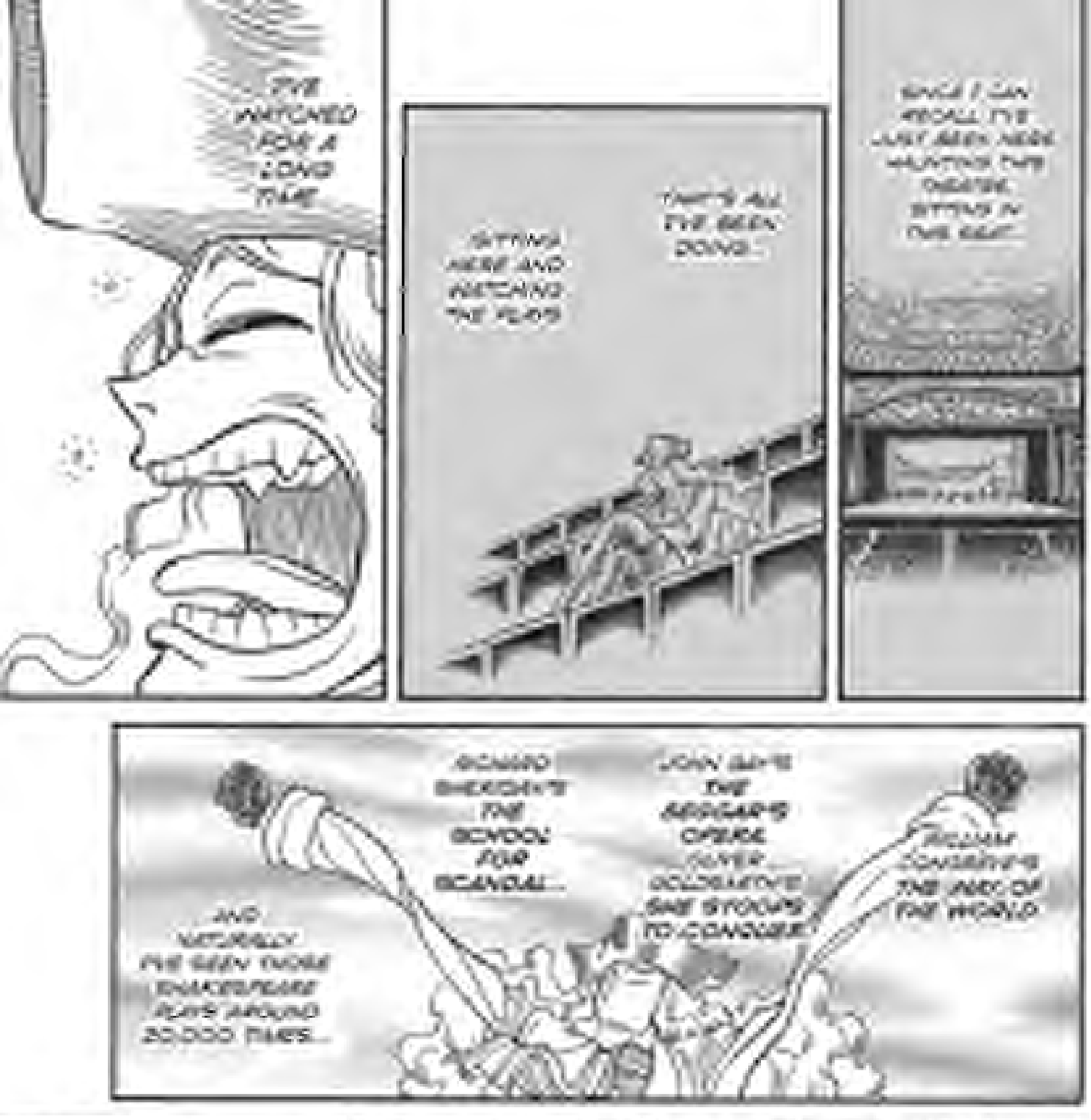
OUTSIDE THE THEATRE...
WHEN THEY CHEER AT THE END

IT FEELS AS IF I'D ALWAYS BEEN HERE, AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, EVER SINCE I WAS ALIVE...
SO I REMAIN OF MY SEAT WATCHING THE PLAY

WELL, IT'S LIKELY I'M THE QUIET ONE AT A DUEL.
WHEN I GO TO THEATRE I'M FOCUSED!

AH, AH, I CAN'T RECALL MY OWN DEATH!
I DIED!

...WHEN I WAS ALIVE...


I'VE WATCHED FROM A LONG TIME
SITTING HERE AND WATCHING THE YEARS
THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN DOING...
SINCE I CAN RECALL I'VE JUST BEEN HERE HAUNTING THIS THEATRE, SITTING IN THIS SEAT...

AND NATURALLY I'VE SEEN MORE SHAKESPEARE PLAYS AROUND 20,000 TIMES...
RICHARD SHEKSHA'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL...
JOHN SMITH'S THE MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER... (NEW... COLLABORATIVE SAGE STOCKS TO CONSIDER)
WILLIAM CONGREVE'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD

20,000 TIMES...
—MAJESTY—
YEAH! WOW AND YEAH! WOW AND YEAH! WOW —!
MONA STEPS FORWARD. TWO COUNTS AND... NOW THE LINE. AND SO FORTH...
YES. YES. NOW WALK AROUND AND DIE THE EXCESSIVE WAILING.

MASTAA
OLIKO TOSI
ETTÄ YOU
KNOW?
777

BLACK SHADOW-LIKE CREATURES...
...HAUNT ALL LIVING MEN.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
...YOU ARE THE MAN IN DARK. I WOULD LIKE A FAVOUR OF YOU...
UH...

...THE DEVIL?
WHY

THESE SHADOWS GROW LARGE, ALTHOUGH MANKIND CANNOT SEE THEM.
WHEN THEY FEEL ENVY.
WHEN MEN BEAR MALICE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER.

PLEASE TAKE MY LIFE.

HEH HEH! WHOW! CURIOUS. SURELY YOU CAN RECALL SUCH AN EXPERIENCE!
OH- BELIEVABLE...

THERE IS A PRIEST... FROM OUR VERY FIRST MEETING I FELT OVERWHELMED BY HIM... AND EVEN NOW I FIND MYSELF UNABLE TO MEET HIS EYES.
(SO YOU WERE UNABLE TO GET ALONG WITH SOMEONE IN SPITE OF YOUR EFFORTS?
REMARK YOU'D FELT DISGRACEFULLY TIMID IN THE PRESENCE OF A CERTAIN WOMAN.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST OTHERS, ARE YOU?
I HAVE ONE TOO.
: BECAUSE YOUR EIDOLON'S NOT TERRIBLY POWERFUL.
THAT'S BECAUSE THAT PRIEST'S EIDOLON CONQUERED YOUR OWN.
HEH-HEH-HEH...
IT'S ALL SO DARK NOW!
...NOW EVER...
"IT IS THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER, WHICH DOTH MOCK THE MEAT IT FEEDS ON."
THIS NOBLE'S ALREADY LOUSY WITH BASTARDS AND'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY POWERFUL EIDOLONS!
—STABLED AS YOU KNOW.
30

...I HADN'T BEEN ANY-THING LIKE THAT BE-FORE.
BUT —
...BUT ONLY A BIT.
...THAT I FOUND MYSELF TAKEN WITH THE LIVING...
IT WAS AT THOSE TIMES...

AN EIDOLON ATTACKING ITS HOST...!
THIS WOMAN...

...TAKE MY LIFE, SPECTRE.

...

I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF I'D NEVER MET THAT BOTHERSOME WOMAN.

SHE'S BEEN TORN
TO PIECES!

THAT WOMAN—
"O, NOW FOR EVER FAREWELL THE TRANQUIL MIND!" —OTHELLO.
...YOU ANSWERED HER...
...I COULD SEE HOW SHE WAS STRUGGLING TO CLING TO HER SANITY IN HER DESPERATE, PLEADING EYES.
SHE WAS LITTLE LADY MACBETH...
NOW TELL ME...
I WAS SHAKING WITH EXCITEMENT
IT GAVE ME THAT FEELING I GET WHEN I SEE THE STAGE CURTAIN RISING...

WHY DO YOU WISH TO DIE?

...IN A WORLD FILLED WITH THESE MONSTERS THAT HAND OVER OUR HEADS...
...WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE, I AM HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING.

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME... TO DIE IS ONLY NATURAL...

HEY... WHY'S THAT LADY TALKING TO AN EMPTY CHAIR?
HUH? WHERE?

SCREEEE
...CAN SEE THIS WORLD?
EH...
YOU
HUH??
SCREEEE
OH. DO BE QUIET!!
IT'S SO LOUD
SO YOU

GRAAA!!
NOW YOU LISTEN HERE. I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO ANYONE IN AT LEAST SO YEARS...
AND NOW, THE FIRST PERSON I DO DECIDE TO TELL THIS SORT-OF-SPOKEN YOUNG LADY HERE. AND YOU ARE MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HEAR HER...
SHHHH!
I JUST...
...COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

...A PUBLICIST...
AS BOTHERSOME AS IT IS, IN MY HEART, I REMAIN...

THEREFORE, THE CODE OF HONOUR DEMANDS I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME.
YOU HAVE SPOILED OUR POLITE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR BELLOWING.

SCREECH
THUS, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!
WHOOSH
FAREWELL!

SCRAPE
THUS, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!
ZOINKS!
FARE-WELL!

End of Chapter 1

SHE DID... MADAM CURATOR IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
DID SHE ACTUALLY SAY THAT WAS HER NAME...?
FLORENCE... NIGHTINGALE...
IT'S JUST... THAT PERSON... COULD IT BE...?
N... NO...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
BUH... IT'S LIKE THE PLAYER KIND SAID IN ARABESTE WAS IT?
SO IT REALLY WASN'T MY PLACE TO HEAR THE REQUESTS OF SUCH A WOMAN.
...I... HAD JUST BEEN WATCHING THE PLAY IN PEACE.
NEVER MIND. PLEASE CONTINUE.

"WHAT WE DO DETERMINE, OFT WE BREAK."
Chapter 2
THE GHOST LISTENS TO THE LADY
...TAKE MY LIFE, SPECTRE.
I WAS OF YOU...
EVEN THEN, I KNEW BETTER THAN TO INVOLVE MYSELF, AND YET I DID.

Chapter 2

THE GHOST LISTENS TO THE LADY

UNTIL ONE DAY A STRANGE WOMAN SUDDENLY SPOKE TO ME

...TAKE MY LIFE, SPECTRE.
I RID OF YOU...

EVEN THEN, I KNEW BETTER THAN TO INVOLVE MYSELF, AND YET I DID!

WHA— WHAT THE BLAZES ?

BAM

WAAA
WE'RE DIRECTLY ABOVE THE STAGE...
THERE'S NO ONE HERE, SO WE CAN TALK FREELY

UM... THE MAN IN GREY...
IT'S A LONG NAME, ISN'T IT...

HUMAN... YOU CALLED YOURSELF HUMAN, DID YOU NOT?
HUMANS CALL ME RUL...
FOR A FOUR-BEAT SO I MAY UNDERSTAND.

NOW, WHAT WAS THAT EIDOLON YOU HAD ON YOU EARLIER?
THAT THING HAD YOU IN TATTERS, YOU KNOW...
...OH. WAS THERE ONE ON ME...?

I AM THE GREY MAN...
...BUT JUST GREY IS FINE.

ECCLONES ARE FORMED FROM MALICE... THEY ATTACK OTHERS AND BREAK THEIR VICTIMS' SPIRITS.
HMPH... BUT IT SEEMS YOU WERE ABLE TO HEAR THOSE SCREECHINGS OF HIS...
THOSE MONSTERS... "ECCLONES" AS YOU CALL THEM...
I HAVE OFTEN FOUGHT SEEING THEM WHEN THEY'RE UPON MY OPPONENTS...
YES...
BUT YOU CAN SEE THEM, CAN'T YOU?
BUT IT APPEARS THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE UNABLE TO SEE THEM...
...THAT EXPLAINS WHY I'VE SEEN THEM ATTACHING AND WRAPPING THEMSELVES AROUND HOSTS AND VICTIMS ALIKE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE THEM.

...THERE ARE DISCIPLE GROWING ABOVE YOUR HEADS!
MOTHER, EVOLVER, WHY DID YOU WANT YOU TEACH ME HOW TO
...THAT OTHERS COULD NOT SEE THE REAL-ITIES
IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE I UNDER-STOOD...
CUTE.
CUTE.

...YES.
NO WONDER YOU CAN SEE ME... AND YOU'RE NOT THE LEAST BIT AFRAID TO TALK TO ME...
SO YOU'VE BEEN SEEING THEM ALL YOUR LIFE, HUH?

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE MY LIFE.
I...

SO, YOUR RE-QUEST —?

TO KILL ONE-SELF... IS TO DISOBEY GOD'S WILL.
I AM... A CHRIS-TIAN.

...WHY NOT DO IT YOUR-SELF?
LIKE LUCRECE IN SHAKE-SPEARE'S THE RAPE OF LUCRECE

I COULDN'T SLEEP WELL IF I DID THAT.
AND TO KILL SOMEONE WITH ATTACH-MENTS TO THIS WORLD —
HAVING ME DO IT IS NO DIFFERENT...
HEH... OF ALL THE... IRRE-CLIC —

IT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION! YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE IT LITERALLY!
SO SHOTTE DIDN'T SLEEP !?
AND I HAVE NO ATTACHMENTS
WAH

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TRY WALKING ACROSS THIS ROOM...
WAH

SO...

YOU'RE SERIOUS? I'LL PROVE IT.
THEN I'LL DO AS YOU WISH.

HOW IS YOUR BALANCE?
IT'S LIKE I'M A CHARACTER IN A PLAY...

WHAT'S ABOUT? EVEN IF YOU FALL YOU'LL STILL GET YOUR WISH.

I'M FRIGHTENING NEW LIKE GORGUN DID LUCIFER!
SAGE DUST
WELL I'LL CAN'T DO IT. CAN YOU FLY
YOU CAN'T DO IT, LITTLE LAD!!
DID YOU JUST SEE A FEW MON-STERS ...
AND THOUGHT TO CRITE INSAN-ITY
"BLACK STARE FOR TRAGEDIES AND ABUNDANT FELL!"
"O COMFORT-KILLING NIGHT, IMAGE OF HELL!"
TAP

NAAK

EVEN IF I LIVE —
...IF I AM UNABLE TO BE OF SERVICE TO ANYONE —
...THEN IT IS ALL FOR NOUGHT —
JUST WHAT IN HELL HAVE I DONE ?!
WHAT IS THIS WOMAN ?!
OH...
THAT BIOCLON OF HERS IS REGENERATING!

WHY DOES SHE HAVE AN ADDICTION THAT ATTACKS ITS OWN HOST ?!
WHY DOES SHE CRAVE DEATH THIS MUCH ?!

I'LL DO WHAT-EVER YOU ASK OF ME !

D... DARK... I FEEL IT AGAIN... THAT THING HAS APPEARED ABOVE ME. HEART !?...

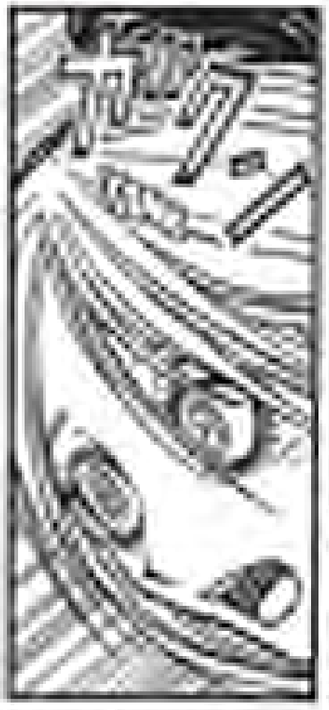
IT HURTS... IT HURTS SO MUCH... PLEASE. ME. DON'T KILL ME...

AND THIS WOMAN WISHES THAT I GRANT HER DEATH!
THERE'S A WOMAN HERE WHO'LL DO WHATEVER I SAY!

ROMEO AND JULIET. I'VE WATCHED THESE TRAGEDIES TIME AND AGAIN.
STYLES ANONYMOUS. HAMLET. TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.
A GLORIOUS DEATH GRANTED BY A DAGGER.
AND THIS WOMAN WHO CHOOSES IT

AAAA

SLASH



I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE.
FLORENCE NIGHTIN-GALE

DOU!

...WELL THEN...

AHH... THIS INVISIBLE HAND OF MINE CAN NOW STOP YOUR BREATH
...AND CRUSH YOUR HEART IN AN INSTANT.
GRIP
BUT I'LL NOT DO THAT NOW.
...THEN...WHEN?
I'D OUGHT NOT TO GIVE OUR BRAND PERFORMANCE UNTIL WE'VE REACHED THE HEIGHTS OF TRAGEDY!

WHY DON'T WE JUST —
...LEAVE THE THINGS OF THAT TO ME.

I'M DEAD, YOU KNOW —
SLEEP IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH AFTER ALL...
YES. AND WHEN YOU DO, I HOPE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP WELL WITH IT.

カラカラ

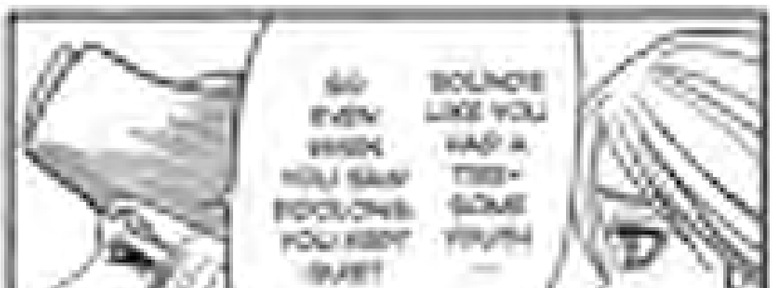
MY FATHER WAS A MAN OF PROPERTY. MY MOTHER WAS BORN OF PEDIGREE AND BIRTH. I WAS BORN TO NAME AND STATION.
I SPENT MY TIME BETWEEN OUR ESTATE IN LONDON AND

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO AN EMPTY SEAT THE WHOLE TIME.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN GIVING YOUR SERVANTS QUITE A FRIGHT, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ALL THAT, RUD.

Luna the Moon © 1999 Kaoru Tada. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events or locales is entirely coincidental. Printed in Canada. Published by Viz, LLC. P.O. Box 77010 San Francisco, CA 94107

EVEN AT A YOUNG AGE, YOU WERE JUST SO BRIGHT... YOUR TABLE MANNERS AND ETIQUETTE WERE BETTER THAN YOUR ELDER SISTER'S. AND YET...
I'VE BEEN BY MILADY'S SIDE EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE...
GOOD GIRL
GOOD GIRL
I'M A GOOD GIRL
YES, MOTHER.
KEEP PLO HAIR IT RIGHT
MATHIL YOU'RE THE ELDER SISTER. BE A BETTER EXAMPLE.
HMPH.

INDEED... YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, FLO.
SOLVING EQUATIONS CALMS ME.
THANK YOU, FATHER.
EXCELLENT WORK. YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR MATHEMATICS.
YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL, FLO.
OH YES. GRACE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG LADIES. IT TEACHES THEM GRACE AND HOW TO HOLD THEMSELVES WITH DIGNITY.
MRS. TROUT, I WAS DESPERATE TO BE A "GOOD GIRL."
"GOOD GIRL"... SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I SOMEHOW GOT IT IN MY HEAD THAT I HAD TO BE A GOOD GIRL...


SO EVEN WHEN YOU SAW FOOLISH YOU KEPT THAT KID ENCASED ?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A TIED-SOME YOUTH ...

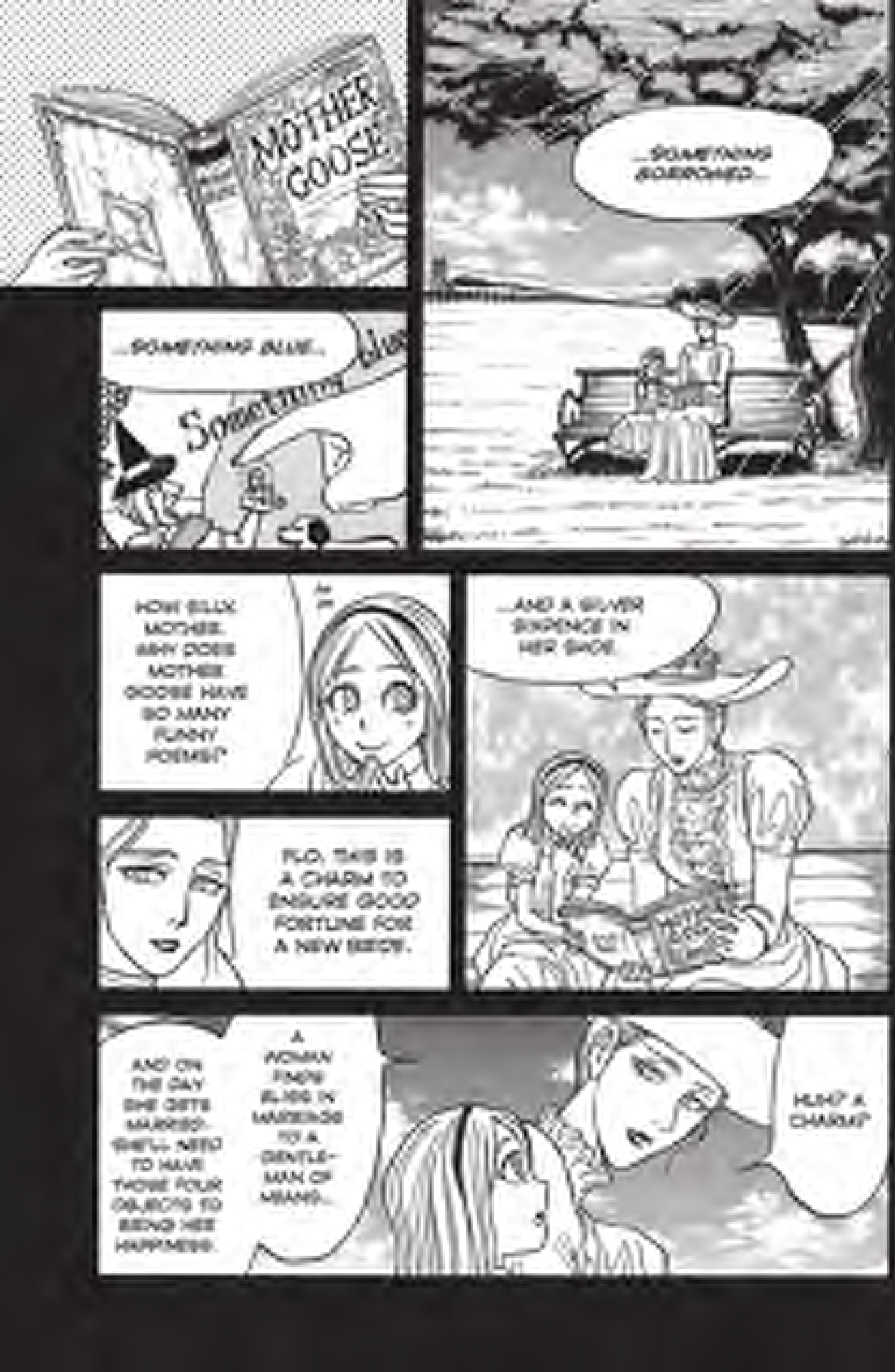
WHAT CAN WE... EVEN SAY TO THAT ?

...YOU WOULD OFTEN SEND BOOKS TO THE GARDEN WITH YOUR WOMEN, MISTRESS NANA!
BUT... BACK THEN...
FEH... WHAT A BOSSY WOMAN

...A GOOD GIRL...
HERE AS- CAUSE I WAS ...

SOMETHING OLD,
SOMETHING NEW...

...THAT YOU WERE SO FRAUGHT WITH OBSERVA- TION AT THOSE TIMES.
I DO NOT THINK ...


MOTHER GOOSE
...SOMETHING ROBERCHED...
...SOMETHING BLUE...
Something
HOW SILLY MOTHER. WHY DOES MOTHER GOOSE HAVE SO MANY FUNNY POEMS?
...AND A SILVER SIXPENCE IN HER SHOE.
P.O. THIS IS A CHARM TO ENSURE GOOD FORTUNE FOR A NEW BRIDE.
AND ON THE DAY SHE GETS MARRIED, SHE'LL NEED TO HAVE THOSE FOUR OBJECTS TO BRING HER HAPPINESS.
A WOMAN FINDS BLISS IN MARRIAGE TO A GENTLEMAN OF MEANS...
HUH? A CHARM?

PLO. SOMEDAY YOU WILL BECOME A BRIDE.
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I WILL GIVE YOU THE "YOUR SOMETHING" AS A PRESENT.
...THE "YOUR SOMETHING."
THEY ARE CALLED
...WHAT IS IT, MR. GREY ?
NOT NOW —
MY MOTHER AND I WERE... HAPPY.
...YES. AT THOSE TIMES...
YOU WERE MEANT TO MARRY A GENTLEMAN AS MISTRESS FANNY SAID YOU WOULD...
YOU SHOULD BE OUT IN SOCIETY, DANCING DAILY AT BALLS AND THE LIKE.
...OH, NO...
I... MR. GREY, YOU ARE —
I PLAYED THE PERFECT LADY AT DANCING, BUT...
PSSH... WHAT ABOUT THAT DIDN'T APPEAL TO YOU ?

IS THERE NOTHING ELSE THAT I SHOULD BE DOING IN THIS WORLD?
I... I FOUND WHAT I WANT TO DO !!
I CAN BARELY HEAR YOU!
OH?! SPEAK UP, RICH GIRL !!

A FEW OTHER GIRLS OF MY CLASS AND I WENT TO LEARN ABOUT THE PAST OF THE WORLD...

AT THE VILLAGE NEAR OUR HOME OF LEA NORTH...

THAT'S WHEN I FOUND WHAT I WAS MEANT TO DO.

I SEE NOW.
WHA... WHAT--?
HA HA HA HA! OF COURSE THEY WOULD, YOU DUNCE!

SO YOU BECAME CRESTFALLEN AND WANTED TO DIE, EH?
YOUR FAMILY WOULDN'T LET YOU DO AS YOU'D LIKE.

WHAT A BORING WOMAN YOU ARE! WITH RUBBISH DREAMS AT THAT!!
THE YOUNG GIRL* HAS FAILED HER PARENTS BY BETRAYING THEIR WISHES AND NOW SHE WANTS TO DIE, HUH?

I WAS LOOKING FOR-- ANY TO FIGURE WHY A WOMAN LIKE YOU...
SOME-ONE WHO COULD SEE RIGHT-LOOKING WOULD POSSIBLY CRAVE DEATH--

BUT TURNS OUT YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST.

GLARE
...IS RUB-BISH?!
JUST WHAT ABOUT HELPING OTHERS

...HOW CAN THIS ORDINARY ALOOF WOMAN...
...HAVE AN AURA SUCH FIERCE EYES...

...NO... NOT AT ALL...
COULD IT BE THAT... YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER SINCE I CUT DOWN YOUR ROUJIN?
YOU

I'M A COWARD
...THE JUST AS YOU SAID... I CAN-NOT STAND UP TO MY BABY-SNTE.

OH MY!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
...NOBODY HERE! YOU'RE PLAYING THE PERFECT LADY AT DANCING?

AEH AEH. THIS WOMAN REALLY IS AN INTERESTING ONE I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO KILLING HER.

BUT I STILL... WILL... I WANT SOME-WHAT SOUGHT AFTER...

IT'S YOU! A MAT-URE GIRL.
...HMPH!
M-MOM, HE'S AB-SORBED AT THE MANGA
...COUSIN

MR. GREY... THIS IS EMBLEY PARK.
THE PRISON THAT CONFINES ME— WHERE MY HOPES ARE BROKEN...!
I AM WITH OUR ALLY —
...A BIRD AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS CAGE.

I WILL NOW OBEY MY DIS-EMPE-
ME OBEY...

HUH?
COME NOW. FLO.
WHY DO YOU THINK I'VE FOLLOWED YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

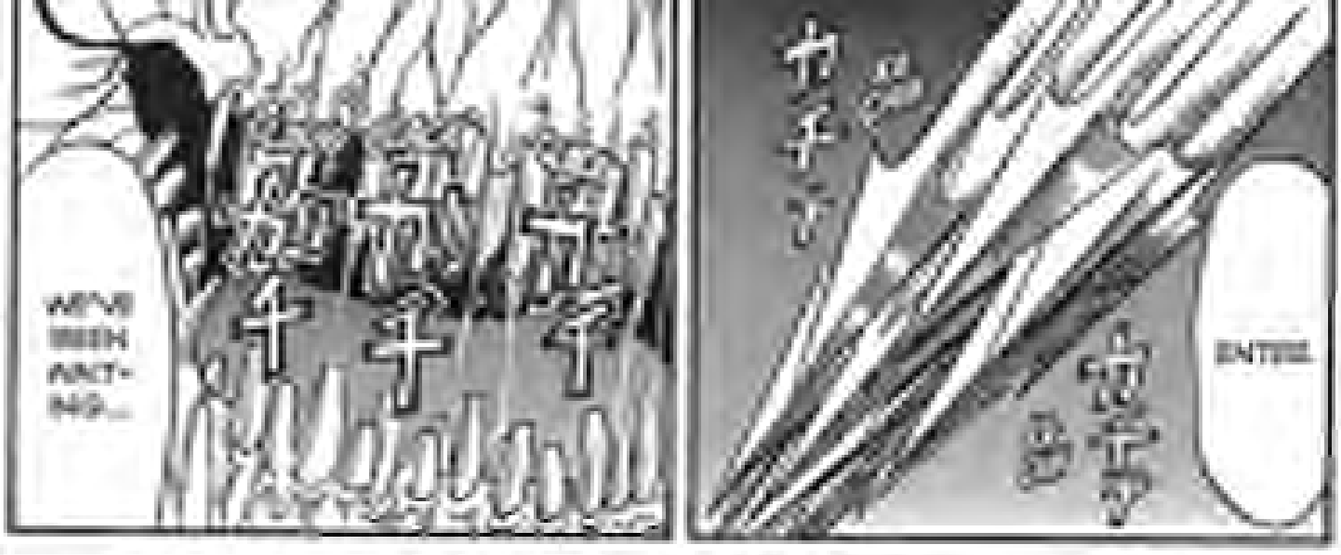
I LEFT THE TIME OF MY DEMISE TO YOU —
BUT IF POS-SIBLE I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO IT BEFORE I SEE THEM.

THE PROGRAM READS, "A GHOST TAKES THE LIFE OF A WORTH-WOMAN AT THE MAJOR OF HER DESPAIR"...

DO YOU THINK I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE AT *YOUR* WHIM?

I INTEND TO SEE THIS TRAGEDY TO ITS END.
YOU AND I ARE THE PER-FORM-ERS.

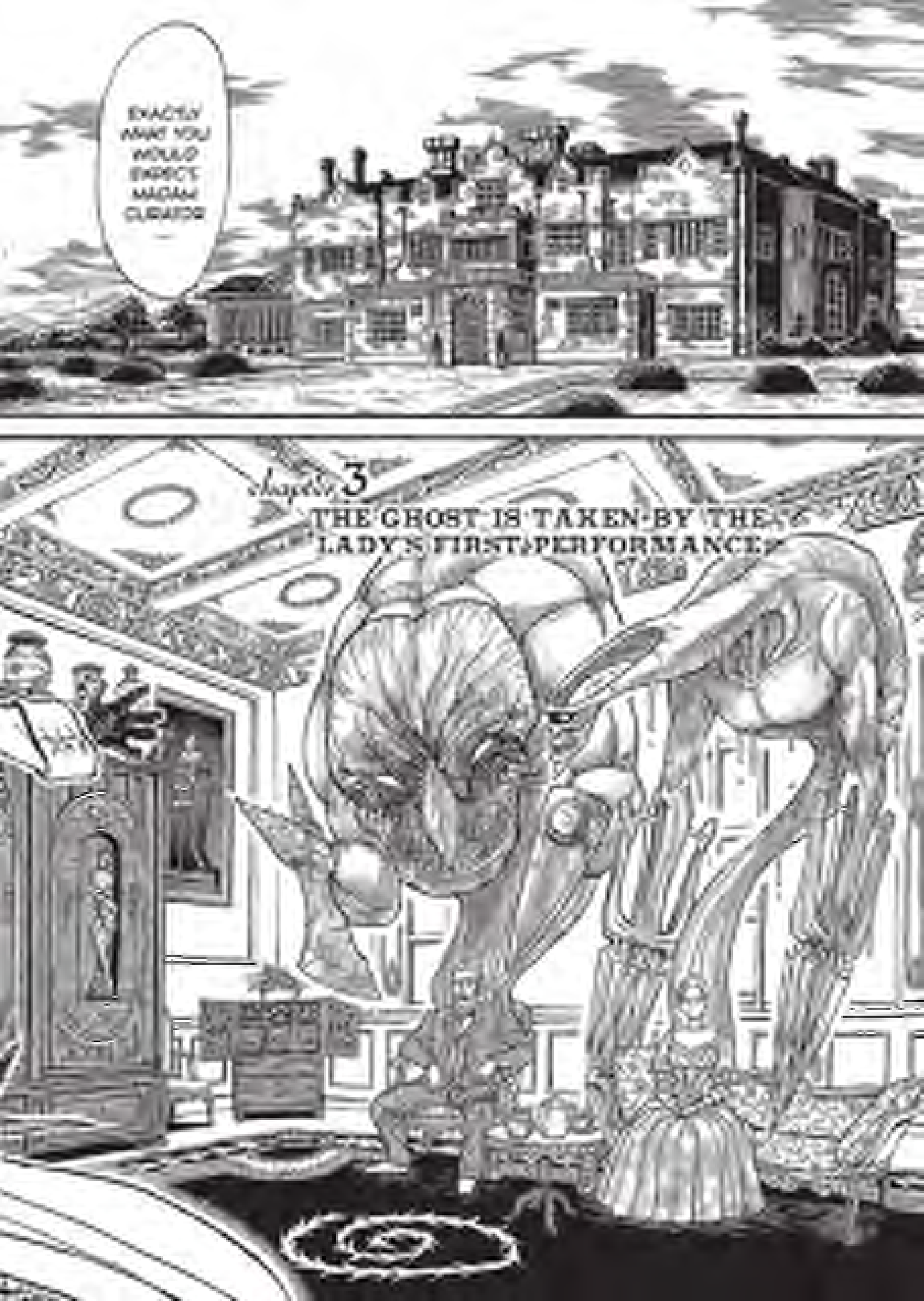
THAT WILL BE YOUR DEATH SCENE.
I'M WAITING FOR THE MOMENT AT WHICH YOUR DESPAIR HAS YOU AT YOUR MOST VULNERABLE.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY CHANCE.
YOU'D THEN BE A "BLISSFUL WOMAN" WHOSE WISH TO DIE WAS GRANTED.
"THE WORST IS NOT. SO LONG AS WE CAN SAY, "THIS IS THE WORST."
AS EDGAR SAYS IN KING LEAR ...
YOU SAID YOU'RE A BIRD AT THE BOTTOM OF A CAGE, DIDN'T YOU...?
WELL...
THAT TIME WILL COME SOON ...


AEVB WEH ANT-NG...
ENTER

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
ACCA-BACE
End of Chapter 2

IT'S LAUNDRY SOAP-SCENTED FROM A HOME I'M FAMILIAR WITH.
PLEASE HAVE SOME...
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.
OH DEAR, FREEDOM ME! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
I WOULD PREFER GIN.
SO... YOU WERE WITNESS TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MISS NIGHTINGALE AND HER PARENTS IN THEIR MANOR...
HER PARENTS HAD SOME MASSIVE SECRETS ON THEM...
AHH...
OH MY!
SO... WHAT HAP-PENED NEXT?
...

OH? THIS IS A SIGHT... YOUR PARENTS ALSO HAVE SOME FINE EIDOLONS ...
YOU CAN SEE THEM, CAN'T YOU, FLO?
EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT, MADAM CURATOR ...
chapter 3
THE GHOST IS TAKEN BY THE LADY'S FIRST PERFORMANCE


EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT MADAM CUBARDS!
Chapter 3
THE GHOST IS TAKEN BY THE LADY'S FIRST PERFORMANCE

OH? THIS IS A SIGHT... YOUR PARENTS ALSO HAVE SOME FINE EIDOLONS
YOU CAN SEE THEM, CAN'T YOU, ALOY

YOUR TEA IS GETTING COLD... WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME SWEET CAKE ...?
STILL TALKING TO YOURSELF, I SEE ...
YES.
AS WELL AS I CAN RECALL. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE THEM...

BUT... I'VE ALREADY TAKEN TEA...
THANK YOU, MOTHER.

QUITE A FEW SERVANTS AS WELL...
QUITE THE ESTATE SHE'D LIVING IN. R.O REALLY IS RICH...
ZZ

IT HAS TO BE BECAUSE OF THAT, RIGHT? LADY FLORENCE WANTING TO TAKE UP NURSING!?
THINGS'VE BEEN TENSE FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS!
SURELY TODAY THE MASTER AND MISTRESS WILL HAVE NO MERCY ON MISS FLORENCE...

THEY'LL STOP FLO FROM DOING AS SHE'D LIKE.
HMM. JUST AS I THOUGHT.

THAT'S A JOB FOR SOME FILTHY TOWN GIRL FROM THE SLUMS, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE IT IS!

...THEY MUST BE ACHING TO RAIL AT THEIR DAUGHTER!
LOOKING AT HER PASSIVE* MUSHME BROOKING...

THAT MUCH WILL BE ENOUGH TO HAVE HER SAYING SHE WANTS TO DIE. THEN SHE'LL ASK ME TO "TAKE HER LIFE."

AND THE FATHER... LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO BURST WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AT HIS DAUGHTER.
THAT PRETENTIOUS+ LOOKING MOTHER OF HERS IS FAIRLY VEXED.

WHEN I SUCCUMB TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR... YOU WILL TAKE MY LIFE, WON'T YOU?
YEAH I
DRIVE ME TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR!
YOU CAN DO IT, AM I RIGHT?
ME, OBEY ...
OF COURSE. I'LL KILL YOU.
YES.
PERFECT.
YOUR DEATH WILL FAR SURPASS THE DRAMA OF OTHELLO STRANGLING DESDEMONA!
IT WILL BE MY FIRST STABBING ROLE UPON THE STAGE OF A TRAGEDY !!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO DIE THAT BADLY?
THOUGH... AND THIS MATTERS LITTLE TO ME, BUT ALL THIS OVER MERE DIFFERENCES WITH YOUR PARENTS...
"I DON'T NEED TEA. I DON'T NEED ANYTHING."
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME, FLORENCE.

OUR PRE-CIOUS FAMILY TIME...
...MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, FOX.

NO. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL, MOTHER.
HELL NO AMITTAY!
SINCE I VANQUISHED HER EGOLON, YOU'LL HAVE A DIRECT ATTACK UPON HER. WON'T YOU SHOW SHOW MERCY?

WE'VE DONE NOTHING BUT TREAT YOU WITH LOVE. AND YET YOU HOLD US IN CONTEMPT.
IT SEEMS I CANNOT STOP YOU FROM BRINGING DISGRACE UPON US.
YOU DO THIS KNOWING FULL WELL THE SHAME IT WOULD BRING UPON THE MIGHTY INDALLE NAME.
THIS CONCERNS MORE THAN OUR FAMILY. I HEAR YOU VENTURED OUTSIDE THE ESTATE UN-ACCOMPANIED BY YOUR ATTENDANTS.

PLEASE, I MERELY ASK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND...
...I CONTINUE I COULD NEVER...
THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
TO CARE FOR PEOPLE... ALLOW ME TO ASK THE RICH OF HELPING OTHERS...
I'VE ONLY HAVE... CARE PEOPLE

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU, FLOP
...TO THAT FILTHY NURSING SCHOOL IN SOLISSIA OR WHAT HAVE YOU...
YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU WANT TO GO...

A HOSPITAL IS A PLACE WHERE THE FLOORS AND WALLS ARE STAINED WITH BLOOD, PUS, AND EXCREMENT!
WHY MUST YOU DEMEAN YOURSELF BY BEING IN THE COMPANY OF THOSE LICENTIOUS, DRUNKEN, AND INCOMPETENT NURSES?
TWOK TWOK TWOK
TWOK TWOK

QUIST, FLO!

THE WOMEN THERE ARE PIOUS AND SARNEST —
IT'S... NOT LIKE THAT, MOTHER... THE KAISERS-WERTH MEDICAL SCHOOL IN PRUSSIA IS CLEAN...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR WORTH-LESS ADMON-ITIONS.

GSH
AND YET YOU REJECT RICHARD MILNES'S PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH HE IS A SUITOR OF EXQUISITE STANDING.
ACTIONS LIKE THESE ENDANGER OUR HOPES FOR YOU —
GWIP
AS A LADY OF THE NIGHT-INGALL NAME YOU HAVE OBLIGATIONS.

GWIIUP
YOU NEVER THINK OF YOUR FAMILY! YOU ALWAYS SELFISHLY TRAMPLE UPON OUR WISHES!

...AND WEARING EMERALD RINGS ...
MORE IMPORTANT THAN WEARING DRESSES OF VELVET AND LACE...
...HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO...
MOTHER... !...

THERE IT IS! THE ECO-LOVIN' SPECIAL TECH-NIQUE!
THAT'S HOW THEY SUCK UP THEIR ORGA-NISM'S SPIRIT!
AND THAT'S TO WORK SUCH A MENIAL JOB?! YOU FOOLISH CHILD!
SNIFF... SURELY IT WILL COME...
YES... IT'S SO DAUN-TUL.
WHY! YOU REACHED THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR!?
HEY, FLO. YOU'RE IN PAIN AREN'T YOU?
IT'S YOUR FAULT, FLO.
AND NOW, YOUR SISTER HAS TAKEN TO HER BED. SHE IS SO UNHAPPY. WHERE IS YOUR CONCERN FOR HER?
SHE HEARD THAT YOU WISH TO ABANDON YOUR FAMILY AND STUDY ABROAD, ALL TO BECOME A NURSE OR WHAT HAVE YOU.
— YOUR SISTER?
AND DO YOU CARE FOR ...

BOOM
IT'S YOUR FAULT !!
OH? YOUR FATHER'S AXE-WIELDING EIDOLON HITS HEAVY.
HMM. SO YOUR SISTER'S BEEN RIDDEN
HEE HEE! HOW THRILLING! LET'S HAVE A LOOK, THEN...

SOMETHING NEW...
OH MY!

SOMETHING OLD...

SOMETHING BLUE...

SOMETHING BORROWED
I'LL WEAR THESE PEARL-BUTTONED KIDSKIN GLOVES FOR THE DANCE TONIGHT!

BUT... RATHER... I FEEL THAT... CARING FOR THE ILL IS MY CALLING...
I... FEEL HURRY FOR HER...
P... PAULTHE...

AMEN. THAT'S IT!

HEY, FLO! YOUR SISTER'S FINE...

I JUST WANT TO CARE FOR THOSE POOR SOULS WHO SUFFER IN POVERTY AND SICKNESS —
AND EVEN IF I MUST DEVOTE MY LIFE... I'LL WORK TO REDEEM —
FOR MY LORD... THE ANGUISH HE SUFFERED —
AND I'M CERTAIN... THAT THIS IS WHAT GOD INTENDS FOR ME TO DO.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT "GOD'S" SELF-ELECTED ANY-MORE!
THIS NON-SENSE AGAIN ?!

THERE'S NOTH-ING... MORE IMPOR-TANT...
SHOOK

GOD'S... REVELATIONS ?

BUT... RATHER

FLASH
FLORENCE, SERVE GOD.
SERVE GOD.

...NO. I HEARD IT. I'M GLAD OF IT.

...PERHAPS I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ASKING. BUT YOU WEREN'T JUST HEARING THINGS.
18 YEARS AGO, ON THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY 1817... THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE VOICE FROM ABOVE...

WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?!
O, LORD! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

NO...
YOU'RE... WHO AS A MATTER...

WELL...

WHAT DID... GOD TELL YOU TO DO?

GOD CALLED TO ME.
BUT HE DID NOT SHOW ME WHAT I SHOULD DO...
HUH ??
THAT IS WHY...

I'M A GOOD GIRL! I MUSTN'T TURN AWAY FROM GOD...
WHAT SHOULD I DO??

O, LORD... I CANNOT ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISHES!
AHH AHH...
A NURSE.- HOW ILL!
I'LL DEVOTE MY BODY & SOUL TO HEALING PEOPLE'S ILLNESS! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

I SEE...

HEH HEH. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE TYPE WHO COULDN'T HAVE NOT BEING A "GOOD GIRL."
SO IF "GOD" SPEAKS TO YOU, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY FIND YOUR CALLING...
...YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...

WELL... THEN IT'S OVER!
YOU'RE JUST ABOUT RUN TO THE ENDING OF DESPAIR. RUIN YOU!

AYE! EXACTLY! DEATH WOULD BE BETTER!

WITH SO LITTLE POWER, IT IS BETTER THAT I DIE...
...I AM UNABLE TO ACT ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.
EVEN THOUGH GOD HAD CALLED TO ME...

HEH, AND BACK I WILL DIE NOW.
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, I WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE MOST DRAMA-TICALLY!
PUPA
WHAT IF
BUT...
WAIT!
FLASH!!
IF I'M TO DIE... THEN I MUST FIRST UNBLEACH MY HEART AND SAY ALL THAT I CAN. THEN I CAN DIE.

WHAT'S WRONG? SAY SOMETHING, P.O.
YOU SHOULD START WITH AN APOLOGY.
APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FAMILY, P.O.
WHAT HAVE I DONE, FAT?
I WILL NOT APOLOGIZE.
WHAT ...?
FATHER, MOTHER... I'VE TRIED TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS COUNTLESS TIMES!

I COMPILE REPORTS ABOUT HOSPITALS.
I USE BOOKS OVERSEAS TO STUDY VOLUME AFTER VOLUME OF WORKS ON HYGIENE.
I... WISH THAT YOU WOULD HAVE COMPASSION FOR ME.
HEH... JUST WHEN SHE'S READY TO DIE, SHE SUDDENLY DOES THIS...
...OR WHEN I OVERCAME MANY DIFFICULTIES TO STUDY AT A PRUSSIAN HOSPITAL...
WHEN I AGREED TO STUDY NURSING AT THE INFIRMARY IN GALLSBURY...
YOU'RE BEING RUDE!
BE QUIET!
I JUST WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ME!
WELL, WHAT OF REFUSING TO LET YOUR DAUGHTER WALK THE PATH THAT SHE HAS SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT?
RUDE?!

I NO LONGER NEED YOUR UNDER-STANDING!

YOU ASSUME THAT HUMANS ARE SHAME-LESS AND DESPICABLE WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO LEARN THE TRUTH!
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ALL THE PRIDE I'VE POURED INTO THIS AND JUST WANT TO LOCK ME AWAY IN THE DARK! IS THAT NOT RUDE?!

I SHOULDN'VE CLEARED FORWARD UPON MY OWN PATH!

MY SOUL WILL SURELY DEPART FROM THIS WORLD... AND I'LL JUST NOW COME TO AN UNDER-STANDING.

YOUR FEELINGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN!

HE WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS DEFIANCE!
WHAT NON-SENSE

HER PERFORMANCE
SHE DIDN'T EVEN BUNDLE THOSE SOAKED LINENS OF HERS!
AND HER DELIVERY WAS AWKWARD!

THIS PRIMARY AS A FORCE
JUST AMAZING
AMAZING

I JUST DID MORE!

I'VE GROWN WEARY OF YOUR MOCKERY!
MOTHER, FATHER, YOU WILL NO LONGER NEED TO TORMENT YOURSELF OVER MY ACTIONS.

YOUR BIRTH WAS A MIS-TAKE!
ROMEO AND JULIET, ACT 2, SCENE 2...
A THE PLAY OF MINE, SIR'S NO SURFEIT-NO FOLLY
NO!
"HE JESTS AT SCARS ..."
...THAT NEVER FELT A WOUND ..."
THEREFORE, THE CODE OF HONOUR DEMANDS I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME.
YOU DARED TO INTERRUPT HER PRECIOUS SOLILOQUY IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR PERFOR-MANCE.
YOU TRULY AND ABSO-LUTELY DISAP-POINT ME, FLO!
THUG, I CHAL-LENGE YOU TO A DUEL!

"HE JESTS AT SCARS
...THAT NEVER FELT A WOUND!"
ROMEO AND JULIET, ACT 2, SCENE 2...
IN THIS PLAY OF MINE GIVE NO SUPPORT TO MY ROLE
NO!
YOU TRULY AND ABSOLUTELY DREAD POINT ME, FLO!

YOUR BIRTH WAS A MIS-TAKE!
THEREFORE THE CODE OF HONOUR DEMANDS I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME.
YOU DARED TO INTERRUPT HER PRECIOUS SOLILOQUY IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR PERFOR-MANCE.
THUS I CHAL-LENGE YOU TO A DUEL!

YOU DARE ATTEMPT TO UPSTAGE THE LEADING LADY DURING HER SCENE ?!
ZZLASH
BLAM

YEAHHH...
AREN'T THAT YOUR CHANCE TO KILL ME FLOW PENCE ?
D-DO YOU REA-LIZE ...HER DEA-TH TOO LONG ...?

BUT... SHE SAID A RUDE EXPRESSIVE RESPON-SIBILITY SO I JUST... HAT TO PURSUE THEM.
THAT WOMAN WAS TAUGHT TO BE A GOOD AC-TRESS.

I HAD BEEN EXPECTING YOU TO KILL ME...
BUT AFTER YOU GOT TO SAY ALL THAT YOU WANTED, YOU WEREN'T EVEN CLOSE TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR WERE YOU ?

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MOTHER AND FATHER IN SUCH A STATE ...?
THEY'VE BEEN IN NORMAL MOOD ENDLESS ... FOR TOO LONG ...

MY LORD! MY LADY! WHAT HAS HAPPENED ?!

...STILL THIS IS YOUR FAULT.
AFTER SUB-DUING MY EGO-LOVE...
...YOU SAID YOU WOULD KILL ME. DID YOU NOT?
WELL, THAT ACTUALLY CALMED ME AND GAVE ME STRENGTH.
REAL-LIKE I KNEW THAT WOULD HAP-PEN!
SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT YOU TRULY ARE THE SELFISH BRAT YOUR PARENTS SAY YOU ARE.
YOU CAN GO AND START DOING AS YOU'VE WANTED. BUT YOU'LL FALL RIGHT BACK INTO DESPAIR. YOU KNOW.
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE TO TAKE YOUR LIFE.

WELL I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ANYWAY, SO IT'S OF NO MATTER.
YOU CHOSE AN ODD PLACE TO END THAT PHRASE!
MET A PIG?
AHA! A GOOD WOMAN'S MORE PLACID AND GENTLE. YOU'RE RATHER PIG-HEADED.

YOUR MEDITATIVE FORUM THAT DAY, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE...
...WOULD BE SHARED WITH THE REHABILITATION OF A FAILING HOSPITAL.
PLEASE DO SIT DOWN.

End of Chapter 3

IS IT A BIT COLD IN HERE —?
Uhhh
7
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH A GHOST.
HAH HEA OF COURSE
DRINKING THE TEA I BREWED SUDDEN JOKE NOTHING... I'M STILL GETTING CHILLS.
ARE YOU... COLD ?
SORRY. ALL I CAN DO IS PRETEND TO DRINK IT.
THE TEA FROM BEFORE
AHH. THE BODY OF MINE BECAME A COOL AID WITH IT.
...OH! SO THINGS BECOME COLD IN THE PRESENCE OF A GHOST?
THAT S AU
AHS
OH...
THAT'S WHY I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TEA.
I CAN FEEL ITS WARMTH YOU SEE.

I CAN'T STAND IT.
AS A GHOST... ALL I KNOW IS COLD...

DON'T CATCH COLD, MADAM CURATOR —
WELL THEN, PLEASE CONTINUE THE STORY.
I'M SO SORRY —

THE WIND STILL BLEW FROZEN THAT DAY. BLOOD? COLD, IT WAS.
IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF APRIL 1853...
FYODOR

WE ARRIVED IN FRONT OF A HOSPITAL ON HARLEY STREET. ME AND THAT WOMAN... FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.
AN EUROPEAN-TRAINED, SHE HAD TO BEFRIEND THE MANAGEMENT. GET THE POSITION BACK IN NURSING ENDS.
A FRIEND WITH POLITICAL INFLUENCE HAD SECURED THE POSITION FOR HER.

A HOSPITAL FOR FEMALE TUTORS, MANAGED BY A COMMITTEE OF LADIES...
COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "LADY'S HOSPITAL."
...THIS HOSPITAL'S GONE TO RUIN
chapter 4
THE GHOST TREMBLES AND THE LADY ILLUMINATES

INDEED... AND WHEN I DO, I CAN BECOME LIKE AN ACTOR IN MY BELOVED PLAYS. BUT...
YES... YOU PROMISED TO KILL ME WHEN I'VE FALLEN TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR.
I'M JUST HAUNTING YOU SO THAT I MAY TAKE YOUR LIFE LATER...
AH... I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.

HOW WOULD I KNOW?!
YOU'RE SURE BRIMMING WITH MOTIVATION! JUST WHEN THE BLOODY HELL WILL YOU RESIGN TO DESPAIR!
GLARE GLARE
BUT MAGIC?!
...BUT IT...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY GETTING STRONGER...

THAT UNBELIEVABLE...
—I SUPPOSE I DID SAY THAT...
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, KNOWING THAT YOU'LL KILL ME ACTUALLY CALMED ME AND GAVE ME STRENGTH."
EVER SINCE YOU STOOD UP TO YOUR MA AND PA 4~5 MONTHS AGO, YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER, YOU KNOW?
NO, YOU ARE.
OH, NO... I COULDN'T POSSIBLY...

I HAD THOUGHT SUCH A SHABBY, UNAPPEALING AND DULL WOMAN WOULD SUCCUMB TO DESPAIR SOONER...
...I KNOW THAT I AM SICK... AND THAT I'M UNABLE TO PERFORM THE COURTESY THAT SO PLEASES HIM...
ANY-WAY, AREN'T YOU COLD BEING NEAR ME?
BUT I WILL NOT STAND FOR BEING CALLED "DULL"! THAT'S A FATAL QUALITY IN SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BE A SKILLED NURSE!!
BUT EVEN SOMEONE AS DENSE AS YOU WOULD FEEL FROZEN IF YOU BECAME A GHOST.
HE... IS THAT SO...
WELL, I GUESS IF THAT'S ALL YOU FEEL WHEN I'M AROUND, IT'S BETTER THEN.
SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE SICK OF ME.
NORMALLY, WHEN LIVING PEOPLE HANG ABOUT GHOSTS, THE COLD MAKE THEIR TEETH CHATTER.
LOOK AT THAT! YOU ARE DENSE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DO SOMETIMES FEEL A BIT CHILLY...

WE CAN'T HOLD ON TO HEAT.
GHOSTLY BODIES LIKE A GATHERING OF MIST, ARE HARDLY TANGIBLE...

OH MY, GREY! ARE YOU COLD?
AYE...

IF YOU ARE INJURED BY AN ECHOLON—
...NO... GREY...

IF I SHOWED TOO MUCH ENERGY... I WOULDN'T BE A GHOST. I'D JUST DISSOLVE INTO THE AIR.
I'VE BEEN ON THIS PLANE ACCUMULATING ESSENCE FOR CLOSE TO 100 YEARS. SO I CAN KEEP THIS FORM.

I'VE BEEN ON THIS PLANE ACCUMULATING ESSENCE FOR...
AND EVEN IF I DID, I'D JUST HAVE TO COLLECT MY ESSENCE FOR A DOZEN OR SO YEARS...
ECHOLON! I WON'T BE DISAPPEARING SO EASILY.

I'M SURE THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
THEN, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT FADE AWAY BEFORE YOU TAKE MY LIFE.

HEH HEH. AS IF THOSE THICK-SKULLED ONES COULD EVEN SCRATCH THIS PROFESSIONAL PURSUIT!
BUT... WAIT!!!

ALL RIGHT! I HAVE MY INTER-VIEW.
WHO'S VERSION YOU PUT IN CHARGE OF
I'M POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING UNLESS THE WOMEN ON THE COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGE ME.
HOW BOTHER-SOME YOU HUMANS ARE
GO
BUT THIS HOSPITAL WILL NOT BE SAVED!
...ON KNOWLEDGE ALONE.
WE'LL HAVE HER SENT ON HER WAY AT ONCE.
JUST WHO IS THIS PERSON SO EITHER HEINEITE WITT HAS SENT TO HEAD UP OUR MATTERS OF
I'VE HEARD THAT SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN WHO'S KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HYGIENE
WE CAN'T SEE HER TOO LIGHTLY.

THIS PLACE IS ABSOLUTELY IN NEED OF NURSES...
SATOKO! MOMMY IS HERE!

CRAM IN THERE! THERE'S MORE WE MUST!
OH! ALL WE MUST! IT WON'T HELP YOU!

UM... NURSE... I DON'T FEEL SO...
HEY! SHE'S VOMIT-ING!

UHH... NOW SHE'S JUST BEEN CRAMMING ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE INTO HER HEAD. BUT THIS IS HER FIRST TIME TO ENCOUNTER A REAL HOSPITAL LIKE THIS.
WHOA HEAVY...

AH YES. CUTE BUT...

YOU'LL SEE JUST HOW TERRIBLE IT ALL IS AND EASILY SUCCUMB TO DESPAIR, WON'T SHE?
YOU! THAT'S IT! THAT WILL DO IT!
EEK!
THUD
THUD
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU ILL?
YOU DAMNED KID! WHAT IF YOU'D KILLED HER! I'M THE ONE WHO'LL KILL HER! AND I'LL DO IT WITH PANACHE!
NO... JUST TRIPPED OVER MY OWN FEET.
WHAT —?
WHO DID THAT IT
YOU AIN'T HURT IS YOU —?
IS PHOOH MISMA...

A NURSE'S JOB'S A TOUGH ONE... BUT IT'S M' JOB NONE-THELESS...
...I HAVE TYETCH NOT MADE FROM THE BATHS DOWNSTAIRS... BUT MUSCLES WEAK...
NO, NOT I GOYER, MEE
MADAM, I'LL CARRY THIS DOWN FOR YOU.
YOU NEED CARRYING THIS HEAVY DOY UP AND DOWN THEEE FLIGHTS OF STAIRS...?

JUST PLOW THE FIELD— AND STOP ACTING LIKE THEY'RE LORDS OF THE MANOR
YOUR DAMN'D SPOT!
WHAT'S AGOAD —?
A... MAGPIE
...IT'S ROTTEN... THEY HAD AN INCONTINENT PATIENT SIT HERE... AND THE CUSHION'S BEEN TACKED DOWN, SO IT CAN'T BE WASHED.
DON'T TOUCH THAT CHAIR.
SILENCE, YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY!
UM... AGAIN?
WE MUST COVER THOSE BORES IMMEDIATELY AND CHANGE YOUR POSITION...
HERE WE ARE! SUPPER-TIME!
ARE'S CLOSE TO COL-LAPSIN'. IT'S SO BUSY HERE!
YOU A RELATIVE OF HERS? THEN DO SOME-THING!

OKAY, WITH IT I HAULED THAT SLOP FROM THE PANTRY
...ALL THE WAY UP THOSE STEEP STAIRS!
UH... ALL THE SOUP
IT'S GOT OVER

吉野家

HELL, FROM HOW YOU ARE DON'T THINK YOU CAN LOOK TO HIDE BEN AND MISERY AND KNOW NOTHING!
I'M...

UM... CAN'T YOU SHOW SOME COM-PASSION?

AND THEY ALL NEED CONSTANT ATTENTION. IT HAS US RUN RAGGED.
WE HAUL FOOD 'N' HOT WATER UP FROM THE CELLAR.

WE GOT 200 PATIENTS HERE... ALL OF 'EM A FOOT IN THE GRAVE.
ONLY ABOUT A DOZEN AIDS TO CARE FOR 'EM.

THEY TAKE IT OUT ON THE GHOST!!

FALL INTO DARKNESS —
GO
START!
AND BEND HER TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR —
OPEN THIS NAIVE LITTLE GIRL'S EYES TO THE HARSHNESS OF REALITY!
WELL I...
I WANT IT HEAR AT COURSE...
THEY RELY ON YOU.
BUT [illegible] —
RIGHT. COULDN'T HEAR HER FROM OUT THERE...
AMY JULES' MIT IS CALLING YOU. SHE'S AT THE SHIP AT THE END THERE.
SHE WAS [illegible] —
IT'S JUST...
WAIT I HAVEN'T FINISHED —
YOU DON'T GET IN MY WAY

THOSE NUISANCES ARE JUST... WAITING FOR US TO DIE... TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEXT POOR SOUL.
SO ARE JUST REFUSE... TAKING UP THE BEDS FOR FREE...
HE... SO... WORDY...
THAT'S... THE WAY IT IS...

I CAN'T FEEL PAIN TO MY DAUGHTER...
MY HANDS... SHAKING SO BADLY...
P... PITIFUL I KNOW
NO...

DO YOU NOT FEEL ANYTHING AFTER SEEING THE SIGHT OF THIS HORRIBLE PIT
THIS SHOULD DO IT FOR YOU, HUH, FLOT
ARE YOU IN DISBELIEF NOW?
OBEY...
WHAT CAN YOU DO ALONE?
COME HOME, FALL INTO DESPAIR
GLARE

SHE LOOKS! HIS NORMAL ABILITY SUCCUMBS TO DESPAIR.
NOT AT ALL! I'M DEAD, REMEMBER?! A GHOST!
BEFORE ASKING IF I'M IN DESPAIR, DO YOU NOT THINK TO PERHAPS DO SOMETHING FOR THIS SITUATION !?

HER EYES HER MOUTH

BUT...

JANGLE!!
キラーン
THEREFORE, WE HEREBY REJECT YOUR APPOINTMENT.
オオオ
ギチギチ
GRT
WE UNDERSTAND YOUR PROPOSAL... BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE TOO YOUNG AND KNOW NEARLY NOTHING OF THE WORLD.
YOU MAY BE FULL OF YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM BUT THIS INSTITUTION HAS ITS CUSTOMS AND WAYS.
MY, YOU APPEAR TO BE QUITE YOUNG. WOULDN'T YOU RATHER A GENTLEMAN BE COURTING YOU?
DON'T EXPECT THAT RATIONALITY ALONE WILL GET PEOPLE TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS.
YOU MAY BE KNOWLEDGEABLE, BUT THIS PLACE REQUIRES AN UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE.

REHABILITATING A HOSPITAL IS NOT SUCH A SIMPLE TASK. IT'S MUCH EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
GA-CHAKK
MADAME —
YOU'RE CRYING —
HM...
—
SO...?

AND THERE ARE NURSES HERE WHO WORK RESPONSIBLY FOR THEM...
STILL... THERE ARE MANY SICKNESS WOMEN DEPEND ON THIS PLACE...
AND I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE UP ON THIS HOSPITAL...
I KNOW YOU BEAR ILL-WILL FOR MY VERY EXISTENCE...
THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS FACILITY... IS SUPERIOR...
FOOF
BUT SHE DOES PUT ON A GOOD PERFORMANCE
THIS WOMAN... JUST WON'T COME TO DESPAIR. WILL SHE...
OH DEAR...
EVEN SO! IDEALS ARE EXACTLY WHAT WE MUST PURSUE!!
YOUR "IDEALS" WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING!
LET'S WORK TOGETHER. I PROMISE TO GIVE THIS MY VERY BEST...
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE...
FWOOM
I CAN PERFORM A GOOD MOVE

A ONE WOMAN SHOW LIKE NO OTHER!!
BODY PASSION!!
I SHALL GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME.
KA-CHING
I MUST SEE THIS!
YOU WILL LET HER DO AS SHE PLEASES!!

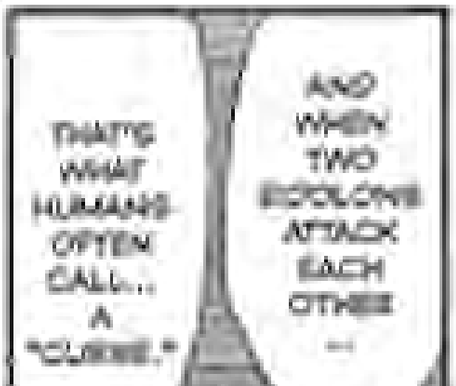
End of Chapter 1

NOW, GREN. JUST TO CONFIRM...

YES... THEIR ACTIONS ARE PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY THE WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR HOSTS.

THEY ARE FORMED FROM PEOPLE'S MALICE. AND ENGAGES AND ATTACK OTHER HUMANS. CORRECT?
THE MONSTERS THAT EXIST UPON MOST PEOPLE— EDOLONS. AS YOU CALL THEM.

THE HOST OF THE DEFEATED EDOLON LOSES ENERGY... OR BECOMES ILL.


THAT'S WHAT HUMANS OFTEN CALL... A "CURSE."
AND WHEN TWO EDOLONS ATTACK EACH OTHER...

WELL. THEN SHE WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO A THING HENCE-FORTH.

SO IF FLORENCE WERE TO LOSE TO THE EDOLONS OF THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE OF THE LADY'S HOSPITAL...

chapter 5 THE GHOST GOES TO THE LADY'S HOSPITAL

I...I WANTED HER TO STEP UPON THE STAGE... AND SPEAK HER LINES.
THAT'S WHY AS A GHOST WHO ALWAYS INHABITS A PLACE OF COLD, I WANTED TO TAKE THAT WARMTH.

HEH HEH... SYLL...
THAT SCOUNDREL...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE COULD BELIEVE SUCH A TASK...
TAKING CHARGE OF RUNNING THAT FILTHY, UNDERSTAFFED HOSPITAL...

I'VE NO IDEA OF THE EXACT REASON.
BUT HOW RARE IS THAT FOR ONES LIKES OF US?
—BUT WHY CAN ECCENTRICS BATTLE WITH SPIRITS LIKE YOU?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HOSTS OF THE ESPERS YOU'VE DEFEATED, MR. DAISY?
BLAM BLAM

WELL, THEY TAKE DAM-AGE.

AND YOU ?
IF YOU'RE HIT WITH AN ENDLESS ATTACK -

BUT THEY SOON RECOVER AS DO THEIR EMOTIONS
FIGHTERS ARE ATTACHED TO THEIR WORTH MINDS... SO THEY ARE LEFT DEEPLY STUNNED

IT BARELY HAS AN EFFECT ON ME...
BOOM

AND AT

Fwish
TRAGH

ZSHH
T-DOG-WHAM!
THIS ISN'T FOR YOU!
OHH! GRR! YOU'RE... OH NO... YOU'VE LET YOURSELF GET HURT FOR ME!
BOOM

SO I DID IT FOR MYSELF. TO HAVE YOU FALL INTO DESPAIR.
BUT ONCE YOU SEE WHAT THE UCW IS ACTUALLY LIKE, THE HARSHNESS OF IT ALL WILL SURELY TAKE YOU THERE.
YOU'LL NEVER FALL INTO DESPAIR NO MATTER WHAT THOSE WOMEN SAY...
HUH —?!
PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEAT.
HEE —?
MISS... NIGHT-INGALE —
OH MY...
...OH MY. HOW RUDE-FUL —
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINIONS —
PERHAPS WE WERE TOO HASTY BEFORE —
BE READY TO SWIFTLY FALL INTO DESPAIR.

HOW! THEN ANYTHING ELSE, PATIENTS NEED A CLEAN ENVIRON-MENT!
REPLACE ALL THE DIRTY CURTAINS AND BED LINENS!

CHANGE OUT THOSE OLD TACKED-DOWN CHAIRS WITH ONES THAT CAN HAVE THEIR CUSHIONS REPLACED.

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...?

I'LL WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR DAUGHTER FOR YOU AND SEE THAT SHE GETS IT.
I...I SAW YOU...IN...BEFORE...

PLEASE! WAIT A MOMENT! I'LL TREAT YOUR INJURIES.
...WH...AND ARE YOU...?

I'M PLANNING TO CALL ME LADY SUPERINTENDENT
I'LL MAKE THIS PLACE A LITTLE BETTER.
NOW LET'S GET YOU WELL AND OUT OF THIS BED!
I'M... PANTING...
...THE FIRST TIME... ANY-CAR...
LADY SUPERINTENDENT
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY CHANGE ALL OF THE CURTAINS AND BED SHEETS!
WHEN ANY SCRAPS OF CLOTH OR CARPET IN THE PLACE... WORKING AS A TEAM, WE'LL PATCH THEM TOGETHER.
...I'VE GOT MY MOTHER HELPING TOO. SHE'S MAKING BED COVERS FROM OLD CURTAINS.
Y... YOUR MOTHER ...?
I STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN FLO... SO WHY AM I BEING MADE TO DO THIS...?
UHHH-UH-AHH...
かりじゃん

LOOK AT THAT! THE DUMBWAITER DELIVERED FOOD TO THE 3RD FLOOR!
わい
DID YOU SEE ?
わい
GHOST WALKED UP FROM THE BASEMENT PARTY !
NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING UP AND DOWN THOSE STAIRS...
WHO MADE THIS?
BUT THAT THING'S ALLOWED US THE RIGHT TO EAT HOT SOUP WITHOUT SPILLING...
THE COUNTESS CRAVING DESSERT...
FOOLS! A GREAT LADY LIKE THAT MUST NEVER DO ANYTHING SO UNDIGNIFIED!
AHA... OH NO, IT'S TRUE... THERE'S REALLY HOT WATER COMING FROM THE TAP...!
HERE YOU ARE, SIR! AS WARM FROM THE POT AS I!
SHIT

THOSE LADIES ON THE COMMITTEE ARE USUALLY SO UNKIND
BUT WHO WOULD GIVE US ALL THESE WONDERFUL INNOVATIONS?
IT TRULY IS!
JUST SPLENDID, ISN'T IT MA'AM! NO MORE HAULING HEAVY BUCKETS UP FROM THE BASEMENT BOILER ROOM FOR US!
PARDON ME. I WAS RUMMAGING IN THE COAL BIN TO MAKE SURE NOTHING'S BEEN MIXED IN...
LOOK AT THIS MESS, GIRL! BETTER WATCH YOURSELF! OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT IS A STICKLER FOR CLEANLINESS!
I'M THANKFUL...
BUT WHAT-EVER THE REASON, THIS HAS MADE THINGS EASIER FOR US.
LADY SUPERINTENDENT
ISN'T THAT THE CHIEF ACCOUNTANT?
OUT OF MY WAY!
AH HA! THERE YOU ARE!
OH, I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T INTEND TO ENTER THE WRONG ROOM.
THE COAL BIN!

WHAAAAAA?
S-SURE'S THE L— LADY SUPERINTENDENT?
IN THIS RECORDAL OF YOURS HAS SHE REDUCED TOO MANY EXPENSES!
LADY SUPERINTENDENT MIGHT-N'T SHE!!

ACCORDING TO THIS TOTAL BREAKDOWN FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS ARE LESS HOURS
THAT'S ALMOST THE ENTIRETY OF OUR FUNDS! AND THE KITCHEN—

IF I ASK CHIEF ACCOUNTANT THESE ACCOUNTS ARE FULL OF THOUGHTLESS WASTEFULNESS.
W... WHAT
! ! !
! MARSHGATE! LOOK AT THIS GRAPH OF OUR OVERHEAD EXPENSES.

SELL THE FURNITURE FROM THE GENTLEMEN'S COMMITTEE AND INSTALL BELLS THAT THE PATIENTS CAN USE TO SUMMON THE NURSES.

THIS MONEY IS EXCLUSIVELY TO BE USED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR PATIENTS AND NURSES.
WE NEED BRUSHES AND DUST CLOTHS TO KEEP CLEAN! NOT NO JARS OF JAM AT A SHILLING APIECE!

TH— THEY'LL NEVER ALLOW IT...
THIS IS TO KEEP THE NURSES FROM HAVING TO RUN TO AND FRO ALL DAY. SO THAT THEY WILL REMAIN OF SOUND MIND!

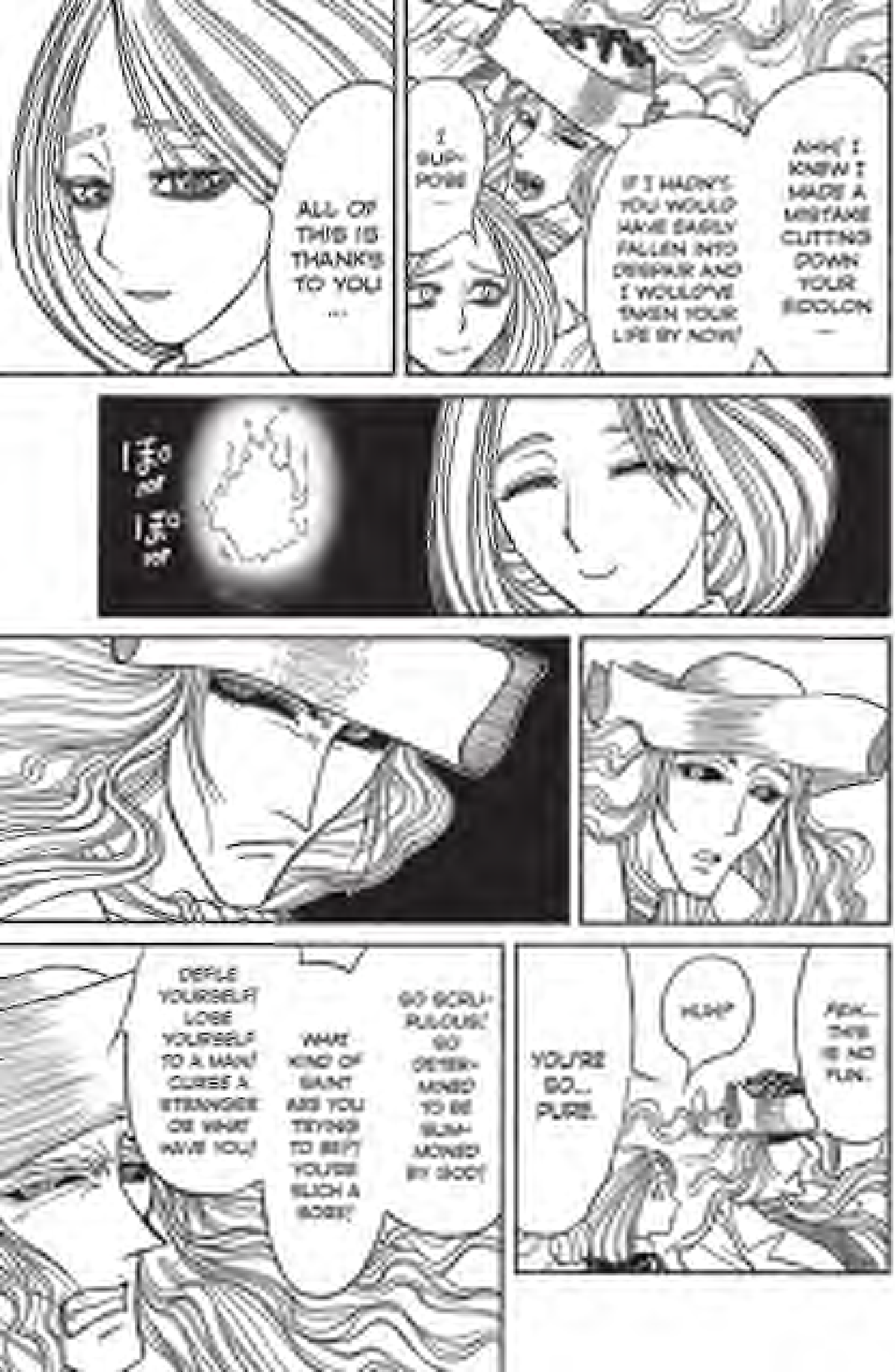
...IT ALL MEANS NOTHING.

...IS THIS NOT A DISAPPOINTMENT?
FOR THE PATIENTS AND FOR THE NURSES...

GOT IT?! THEN LET'S GET TO WORK!
AHH, STOP DRINKIN' YOUR GIN!
COME ON, LADIES! JUST BECAUSE THINGS ARE BETTER DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SHIRK YOUR DUTIES! WE HAVE TO MAKE THAT GIRL HAPPY!
STOMP STOMP STOMP

...UH-HUH... BELIEVE ABLE... NOW THAT'S A LADY CLERGYWOMAN!

DING
DING
NO. 23, MR. DARGER!
NO. 24, MISS. ARENTHE!
HEY... FLO...
YES, GREY ?
I HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME FOR THAT ...
YOU'RE NOT OBSESSING EVEN A LITTLE


ALL OF THIS IS THANKS TO YOU ...
I SUP-POSE —
IF I HADN'T, YOU WOULD HAVE EASILY FALLEN INTO DESPAIR AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YOUR LIFE BY NOW!
AHH! I KNEW I MADE A MISTAKE CUTTING DOWN YOUR EIDOLON —
HOW IS HOW IS
WHAT KIND OF SAINT ARE YOU TRYING TO BE? YOU'RE SUCH A BOSS!
DEFILE YOURSELF! LOSE YOURSELF TO A MAN! CURSE A STRANGER OR WHAT HAVE YOU!
GO SCRU-PULOUS! GO DETER-MINED TO BE SUM-MONED BY GOD!
YOU'RE SO... PURE.
HUHP
AGH... THIS IS NO FUN.

ACTU-
ALLY
YOU'RE
DOING
SOME-
THING
SIMI-
LAR...
...TO
WHAT
I USED
TO DO
WHEN
I WAS
LIVING
YOU'RE
PUBLI-
CLY
—

EVEN IF
YOU TELL
ME TO...
I COULD
NEVER...
PSH!

GRAB
DON'T
FORGET
ME...
...YOU
WILL
LOSE
SOME-
ONE
DEAR.
YOU
WILL
LOSE
AND
DIS-
APPEAR.

THAT
WILL
BE OUR
GRAND
CLIMAX.
I'LL TAKE
YOUR LIFE
AND MAKE
YOU THE
HEROINE
OF OUR
TRAGEDY.

AND A SILVER EXISTENCE IN YOUR EYES.

THE HOSPITAL OVER-FLOWED WITH PATIENTS. NURSES EITHER DIED OR FLED. THEY WON'T HAVE ENOUGH HANDS.
THE SAME HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO. AND THE RATE OF DEATH WAS OVER 60%!
WHAT?! WAIT! LADY SUPERIN-TENDENT!
UNDER-STOOD! LET'S GO!
I CAN'T TAKE YOUR LIFE IF YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD FROM CHOLERA, YOU KNOW!?
H-HEY, WAIT, RUI! YOU CAN'T GO TO SUCH A PLACE!
...WAS MUCH BIGGER THAN CHOL-ERA...
BUT WHAT LAY AHEAD OF HER
YOUUUU!!
AN APOL-OGY WON'T DO!
MY SINCERE APOLO-GIES IF THIS HAPPENS.
AND WITH THAT, HER GRAND PERFORMANCE WENT ON TO ITS NEXT ACT

End of Chapter 5

YOU MEAN DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED!
SO... WHAT HAPPENED WITH MISS NIGHTINGALE WHEN SHE WENT TO THE ISLAND TO ASSIST WITH THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK?

SHE INSTANTLY WENT FROM THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF HARLEY STREET...
...TO A MERE VOLUNTEER, AND WENT ABOUT NURSING ALL THE PROSTITUTES AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

...BUT... THAT WOMAN... SHE DIDN'T DESPAIR AT ALL...
HEH HEH... "I DIDN'T BREATHE IN THE 'BAD AIR' THAT CAUSES THE DISEASE." IS WHAT SHE CLAIMED.
SHE CHANGED PATIENTS' OUT OF THEIR VERMIN AND DISEASE-SOAKED CLOTHES AND PLACED TURPENTINE STOVES ON THEM.
EACH WEEK, SHE WAS CALLED FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT AS SHE ATTENDED TO THEM ALL...
WELL, THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT THE TIME.
"IN THE 20TH CENTURY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT BACTERIA WAS THE CAUSE...
AND... SHE DIDN'T CONTRACT CHOLERA?

*Florence Nightingale worked at Middlesex Hospital in 1854. Before that, she visited and volunteered for 12 days at Harley Street in 1853.

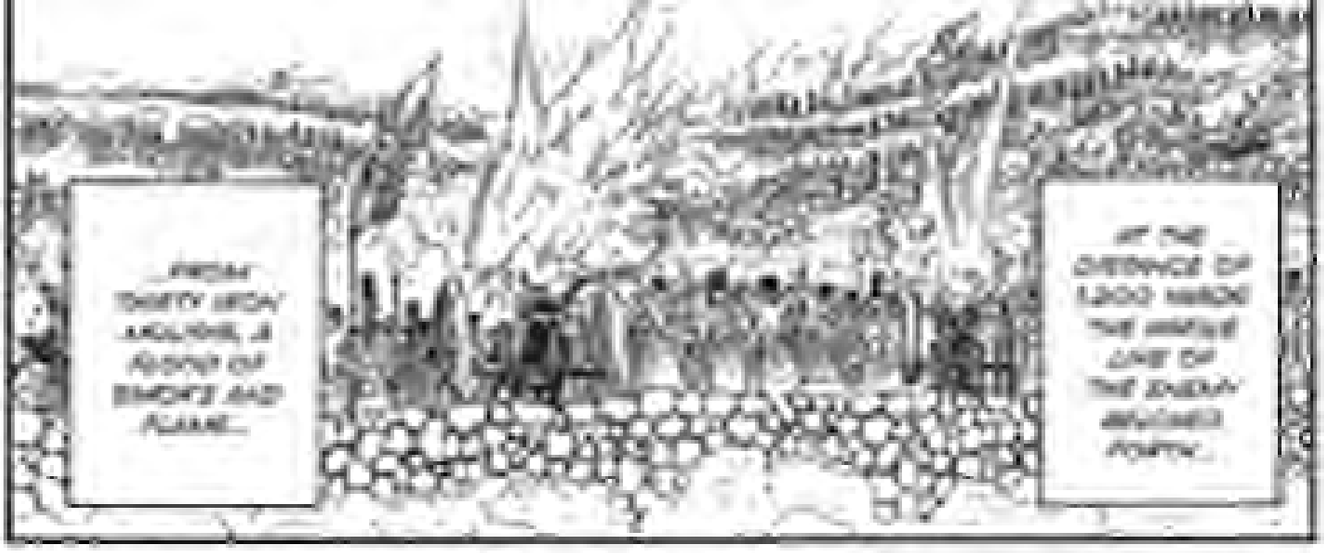
Chapter 6
THE GHOST GOES TO THE BATTLEFIELD WITH THE LADY
...WE RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THE MAIN STORY
...AND SO...
THAT WAS YOUR HOPE
YOU WOULD TAKE HER LIFE WHEN SHE FELL TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR
...WHAT PIC?
IT BEGAN THE SPRING FOLLOWING THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.
WHAT DO BULLETS NEED? ...A BATTLEFIELD. AND IN THIS CASE...
MIGHT THIS BE RELATED TO THE "COLLIDED BULLETS" ?
GW?
THE CRIMEAN WAR.

THE CRIMEAN WAR...
THAT'S WHY THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, STANDING BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ITS PLANS TO INVADE SOUTH,
CRIED FOUL TO ENGLAND AND FRANCE AND ALLIED TO ATTACK RUSSIA.
AT NICHOLAS THE FIRST WANTED TO ENGAGE RUSSIA TO THE ENTRYWAY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.
SO HE REALLY WANTED TO TAKE THE BOSPHORUS OR DARDANELLES STRAIT WHICH BELONGED TO TURKEY

RUSSIA
BUT ENGLAND WASN'T ABOUT TO ALLOW RUSSIA TO EXPAND SOUTH AND
FRANCE
BECAUSE THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT ROUTE TO INDIA, WHICH BELONGED TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
OTTOMAN TURKEY

...AND SO, THE STORY BEGINS... WITH HIM...
THUS STARTING THAT QUAGMIRE OF THE CRIMEAN WAR.
IN MARCH OF 1854, ENGLAND AND FRANCE DECLARED WAR ON RUSSIA...

I AM WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL.
I AM REPORTING THE ARMY SITUATION TO DOWN A WAR FOR A NEWSPAPER.
...SEA-TOWN IN THE MORNING SUN IN ALL THE PRIDE AND BRAV- OF WAR.
AT TEN MINUTES PAST ELEVEN, OUR LIGHT CAVALRY BRIGADE ADVANCED.


...FROM THIRTY MEN MOUNTED, A CLOUD OF SMOKE AND FLAME...
...AT THE DISTANCE OF 1,000 YARDS THE FRONT LINE OF THE ENEMY BECOMES A PUFF...

THEIR FLIGHT ARE MARKED BY HEAVY GAPS IN OUR RANKS...

...BUT EVE THEY HAVE LOST FROM THEIR THE RUN AND STREAKED WITH DUST BOOTS AND WITH THE DIAGONALS OF HORSES

...BY DEAD MEN AND HORSES

...IN FRONT OF THOSE BUNCH MUSCOVITE DUNS
AT EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDRED FEET ALIVEN NOT A BRITISH SOLDIER EXCEPT THE DEAD AND DYING ARE LEFT...

THE DAMEL THE SON, KIN, AND HEIR OF DEMON

NOT ONLY ARE THERE NOT SUFFICIENT SUPERIORS... NOT ONLY ARE THERE NO DAYROOMS AND NURSES...

IT IS WITH FEELINGS OF SURPRISE AND ANGER THAT THE PUBLIC WILL LEARN ... ...THAT NO SUFFICIENT PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE PROPER CARE OF THE WOUNDED

THE PAIN, DOCTOR! I'VE BEEN HERE A WEEK WITH NO HELP...

THE ARM ARE LEFT TO DRIBBLE IN AGONY UNHEEDED AND SUFFER OTHERWISE DISTRESSFULLY AT THE SURGEON ANSWERED AT HANDS AND ROUNDS
UNHAND ME, YOU DAMN NUISANCE! I'M BUSY!
WHAM!

AAHHHHHH
...AND THAT ONE MAN MUST DIE THROUGH THE MERCIFUL HAND OF THE DEVIL ARM...

...DO SOME-

The Tragedy of the Crimean: The Poor Medical System
WON'T SOME-CAN
...DO SOME-THING?!

ELIZABETH'S ENTRANCE SHOCKED BRITAIN.

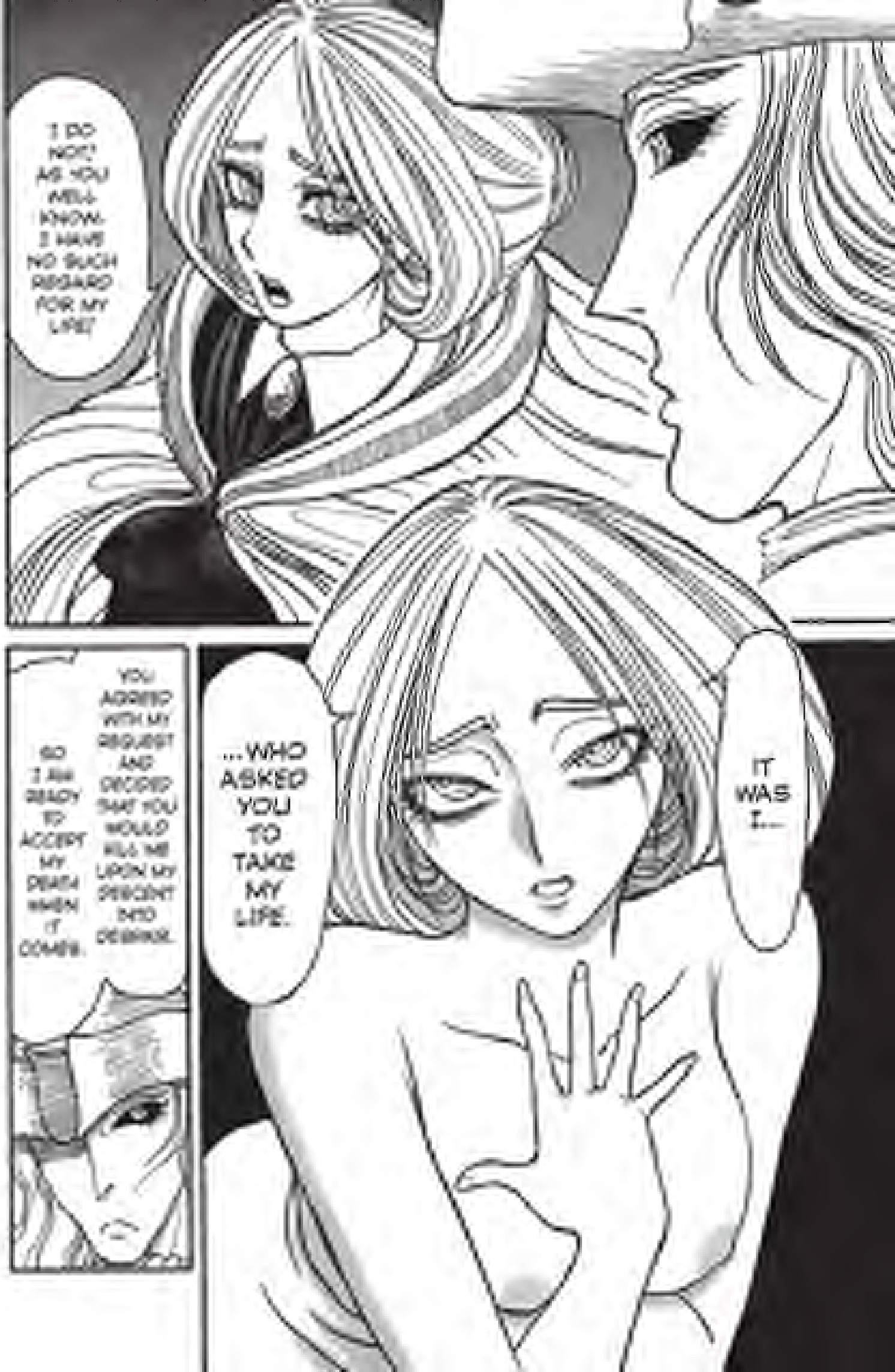
SO DID HE ASK HER TO GO, THEN ...?
SEEMS HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF HERS.
HE WAS THE SAME PERSON WHO RECOMMENDED MISS NIGHTINGALE FOR LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE "LADIES' HOSPITAL."
SEE SIDNEY HERBERT WAS SECRETARY OF STATE AT WAR.

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE REQUEST WHEN CAME
AND CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT FOOLISH WOMAN ACTUALLY DID?
IS THAT SO?!
IT'S A BATTLE-FIELD?! ALL THAT AWAITS YOU THERE IS DEATH!
OH MY!
HE ASKED HER TO LEAD A GROUP OF GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED NURSES TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.
NO, NOT "OH MY!" — MISS CURATOR, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF HER IN THAT SITUATION?!

IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!
GREY! I'M SORRY!

OF COURSE. HER FAMILY'S STAUNCH OPPOSITION FELL ON DEAF EARS.
THAT WOMAN HAD ALREADY PACKED BEFORE HERBERT'S LETTER ARRIVED.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EXPECT ME TO BE PLEASED GOING TO SUCH A PLACE!
YOU MISCHIEF! HAVE YOU NO REGARD FOR YOUR OWN LIFE!?
THERE'LL BE BULLETS AND CANNON-BALLS FLYING EVERY-WHERE! WHAT IF YOU GET KILLED!?
YOU RIDICULOUS IDIOT OF A WOMAN! THE STANDARD OF LONDON'S DECREPIT HOSPITALS AND CHOLERA PATIENTS PALE NEXT TO WHAT AWAITS IN CRIMEA!
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE IS THAT I'M TO KILL YOU! WHAT DO I DO IF YOU DIE BEFORE I CAN DO THAT?!
YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN HELP JUST BECAUSE YOU FIXED UP A HOSPITAL AND CARED FOR A FEW PATIENTS!? AHA! WHAT'S A SPOILED BRAT LIKE YOU GONNA DO IN CRIMEA?!


I DO NOT, AS YOU WELL KNOW. I HAVE NO SUCH REGARD FOR MY LIFE!
IT WAS I...
...WHO ASKED YOU TO TAKE MY LIFE.
YOU AGREED WITH MY REQUEST AND DECIDED THAT YOU WOULD KILL ME UPON MY PRESENT DYING DESIRE.
SO I AM READY TO ACCEPT MY DEATH WHEN IT COMES.

BUT YOU NEVER DES-PAIR !!
GO AHEAD! KILL ME AT ANY TIME!
I WASN'T THE ONE WHO MADE THAT RULE! KILL ME NOW FOR ALL I CARE!
THEN THAT I SHALL !

I WAS CALLED BY GOD...
DO AS YOU PLEASE!

I'VE TOLD YOU THAT I CAN'T KILL YOU WHEN IT DISAGREES YOU.
SELF-POSSESSED WOMAN...
I CANNOT BE OF SERVICE TO THE WORLD OF THIS WORLD... THEN MY CONTINUED LIFE HOLDS NO MEANING...
I QUICKLY DE-ESCALATE

...THEN WE SHOULD GO TO THE FIELD HOSPITAL. I KNOW THERE WILL BE LITTLE JOY ON THE BATTLEFIELD...
SIGH... IF THAT IS SO...
A WOMAN IS TO BE KILLED AT THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR! AND I WANT TO BE THE LEADING ACTOR IN THIS TRAGEDY!
WHAT SORT OF TRAGEDY IS THIS IF YOU'RE IN BUBBLY!
I AM CERTAIN TO FALL INTO DESPAIR THERE. AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, YOU MAY PLAY YOUR ROLE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

BLACK SEA
SCUTARI
WELL —
SO —
YOU WENT —?
...WHAT DID YOU THINK HAPPENED?
3 November 1854—
Scutari Army Field Hospital

VEGA
オオオオ
OHHHH
AAHHH
OHHHH
OHHH
SON... YOU A SOLDIER...?
...EVEN THIS POOR BOY...
SO... IT ONLY...
SO... IT WAS...

I'M RUSSELL... A REPORTER. YOU POOR CHILD —
...I'M LUCKY... OHH!! TROUBLE... GOT ME PUT OUT THE COMIN —
OTHERS GOT IT MUCH WORSE —
I'M... A DRUMMER IN THE 69TH LIGHT INFANTRY —
I'M... GONNA SLEEP NOW... I TOO HUNGRY TO STAY UP...
NO ONE FEEDS YOU —?
I MIS...
A DOCTOR'S MAY LOOKED AT A ONE OF THEM...
THEY'RE ALL WOUNDED BADLY... BUT THEY'VE BEEN LAID OUT IN THE FRENCH COMMON.
TODAY... ARE NOTIN' BUT BONES... NOTIN' TO EAT THERE...
FOOD...? THOSE LUMPS OF HALF-COOKED MEAT...?
AT LEAST I CAN EAT —
LOOKING CAN'T EAT... THEY TURN TO SKIN AND BONES... AND DIE...
EVERY-ONE... ALL OF —
EVERY-ONE WHO COMES HERE... DIES...
...I DON'T WANNA DIE...
BEFORE I... DIE, I'D LIKE TO HEAR MY MOTHER'S... AWFUL PORRIDGE —
...JUST A TASTE...
AA...
AU...

THE NURSES' AN UTTER ANARCHY-ANCE!
WE'VE BUSY WITH THE WAR AND THEY POINT THESE FINAL WOMEN ON US.
JUST WHAT ARE DOCS DOING BACK HOME THINK-ING ...?

WE'VE ALLO-CATED FIVE BOXES FOR YOU.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIT IN THERE.

YOU SAY THERE'S A HEAD NURSE'S OFFICE ...IN ONE OF THE ROOMS ?

THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPART-MENT CONTROLS EVERY-THING. SO THE ONLY THINGS AT YOUR DISPOSAL
THE MILITARY RUNS ON DISCIPLINE AND ORDER. DON'T EXPECT US TO LET YOU "LADIES" DO AS YOU PLEASE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM CARRYING HIM OUT.
HIS HANDS STUCK TO THE FLOOR ?
PAY NO MIND TO IT. WE'VE NO CLEAN-ING EQUIP-MENT.

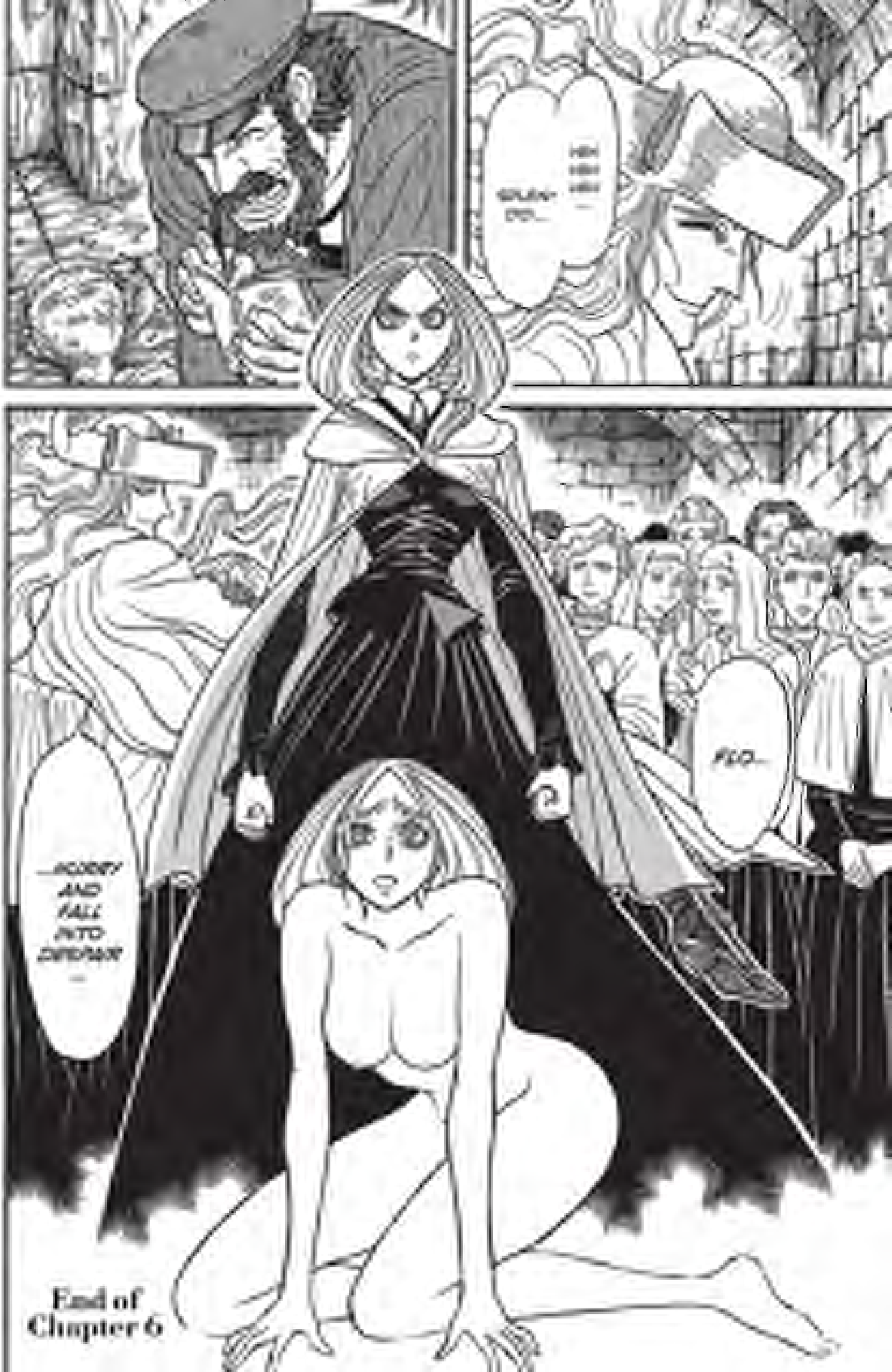
...IS THIS KITCHEN.

THERE'S NO KETTLE OR POT. BUT IF YOU CAN SOMEHOW MUSICALLY CONJURE SOME MEAT, BY ALL MEANS DO SO.

WELL, FLAYER?

GRAAGH!
THE ARMY DOES NOT WELCOME YOU HERE

WELL THEN...
NO I SUPPOSE YOU DID...


—ACCEPT AND FALL INTO DESPAIR
END of Chapter 6

THEY HAD NO FREEDOM OTHER THAN ACCESS TO THE KITCHEN.
AYE... THEY WERE ONLY GIVEN FIVE ROOMS WITH A COMMON ENTRANCE AMONGST THEM...
MISS NIGHTINGALE'S NURSING TEAM WAS TREATED SO TERRIBLY...
...OH NO...
WAR IS BUSY. NO TIME TO DEAL WITH SIX WOMEN WHO JUST SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR...
BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE FELLOWS STATIONED AT THE ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL IN SCUTARI FELT.
...SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO MISS NIGHTINGALE THEN?
CLOSED
WELL, THEY COULDN'T JUST DO THAT. HOW COULD THEY? THEY WERE IN A DIFFICULT PREDICAMENT.
CLOSED
IF SIR DUNDAS SUDDENLY CAME TO THE BLACK MUSEUM, YOU'D BE IN QUITE THE PREDICAMENT, WOULDN'T YOU?
HMM

LET US DO OUR JOBS!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE CAME TO TEND TO THE POOR SICK AND INJURED SOLDIERS HERE!
WHY HAVE WE ONLY BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO THE KITCHEN?!
Chapter 7
THE GHOST HEARS THE LADY TAKE A STAND

CEASE YOUR PREPARATIONS, NOW! AURORA AHEAD!

MEN AND WOMEN BOTH, GERMANS AND COMMUNISTS! IT WAS A DISGRACE TO PUBLIC MORALITY! A TRAGEDY!
WE USED TO USE THE BOLSHEVIKS' HOUSES AS HOSPICES AND NOW DID YOU THINK THAT WENT IN?

THE DOCTORS ARE AND MOCK THE LOT OF YOU!

SINCE THEN, THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT HAS FORBIDDEN WOMEN FROM ARMY HOSPITALS!

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, WE'RE ALL EXHAUSTED DUE TO A LABOUR SHORTAGE AND WHAT DO THEY SEND US? A BUNCH OF NUNS AND GOVERNESSES!

AH HA HA HA HA! YOU TELL HER, MILITARY MAN!
ANY-THING TO SAY?
WELL? ARE YOU THEIR LEADER?
THIS FOOLISH WOMAN WON'T DESPAIR UNLESS YOU THOR-OUGHLY CRUSH HER!
WAGA! I'M JUST THE SPIRIT WHO HAUNTS HER.

HOW DARE YOU THREATEN ME!!
HOW DOMEY EXCUSE FOR MY BOO-BOO.

...UNDER-STOOD. WE'LL FIGHT TOO!!
WHAT WOULD YOU...

HOW CAN THEY SLEEP SO WELL?

...TOMORROW THE DAY AFTER... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT WON'T LET YOU DO A THING.

THIS PLACE IS RIDDLED WITH LIES AND HATE...
THEY MUST BE TIRED FROM THE LONG VOYAGE

YOU'VE BEEN CLAIMED BY YOUR DESIRE, HAVEN'T YOU?

THAT MUST'VE BEEN QUITE DISAPPOINTING...
BUT THAT'S THE REALITY OF THE BATTLEFIELD, TOO...

WHEN WE GOT HERE, WE FOUND THE ROTTING CORPSE OF A RUSSIAN SOLDIER. THAT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM.
HUH?
THERE'S HAIR... STUCK TO THE FLOOR...

DEATH AND DISEASE ARE PART AND PARCEL. CONTINUALLY MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN...
THIS IS INDEED A WAR.

AS EXPECTED
THIS WILL NOT THROW ME INTO DESPAIR.
A LITTLE.
BUT I AM NOT AFRAID
DO YOU WANT TO ESCAPE?
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, BIT BY BIT...
BUT WHAT CAN I DO...?
WHAT I CAN
THE FELLOW NEXT TO ME DIED TODAY...

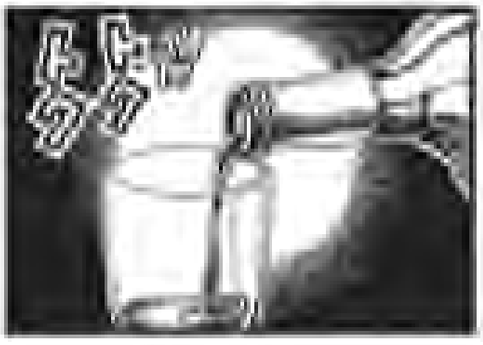
HEAD NURSE! WE DID NOT COME HERE TO CLEAN KITCHENS!
TO COME ALL THIS WAY AND BE DENIED THE ABILITY TO TEND TO THE SICK AND WOUNDED!
UH-ACCEPT ABLE!
BUT WE ARE MEN AND MUST FOLLOW THE ARMY'S RULES.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU ALL FEEL.
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED FOR THE PATIENTS ?!
DO YOU INTEND TO WATCH PATIENTS DIE?
RULES —?!

...WE WAIT.
NO.
BUT FOR NOW ...

WOULD CAUSE THE DOCTORS HERE TO LOSE FACE. THEN THERE'D BE NO CHANCE OF THEM ACCEPTING YOU.
TAKING CARE OF THE HALF-DEAD BASTARDS WITHOUT PERMIS-SION.

BUT THAT IMBECILIC WOMAN DOES HAVE REASON.
WELL NOW IT'S GOOD THAT THEY'VE RUN OF PATIENTS-HIM

WE PURPOSE HAVE NO INTENTION TO DO SO, SIR.
THERE'S NO NEED TO GIVE THEM ANYTHING. WOMEN ARE OF NO USE HERE.



THEY'RE CLEAN-ING THE KITCHEN ...
SO WHAT ARE THOSE NOT-HERSCAM WOMEN DOING NOW?

HELP!
HA HA HA... THE DEVIL'S WILL BE THE SAME NO MATTER WHAT SHE DOES...
PEOPLE'S SENSE WILL SEEM TO DISAPPEAR AFTER ALL...
HUH?
HEAD NURSE! A SHIPMENT FROM MAMIYA CLINIC!
OH, SHIT... NO, OH...!
OUR WORK STARTS NOW!
STOP THE FIRES! MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE LARGE TURATSU CORPSES!
WELL THEN...

OH MY!

PORTABLE STOVES, ARROWROOT POWDER, WINE, BEEF ESSENCE, AND MORE... AND WITH THAT, SHE STARTED COOKING.
BEFORE ARRIVING AT SOUTARI, FLO ORDERED FOOD AND SUPPLIES IN MARSEILLES.

STIR SLOWLY! WHEN IT TURNS CLEAR, EXTINGUISH THE FIRE.
MMM THE FIRE! IT MUSTN'T BE TOO HOT!

HEAD NURSE... WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOU WATCHING THE PATIENTS DIE... I...
NOW... HOW TO BREAK IT... WE HAVE PAUL'S...

IS IT TRUE!? ARE YOU LEAVING WITHOUT PERMISSION!?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... WASH THE BOARD INSTEAD...
THERE IS A GROSS IMPUDENCE-REACHING HEAD PE DOCTORS NEVER GIVE YOU PERMISSION!
SEE-CHANT

THEY'RE QUITE STRONG WITH YOU SO GO AHEAD AND DISMAN... I WON'T HAVE YOU THIS TIME...
LOOK AT THAT! THEY'RE BACK!

WE HAVE ONLY COOKED FOOD THAT WE BROUGHT WITH US FOR LIFE TO EAT
IS THAT FOR+ BIDDEN —?
OH DEAR, BUT THIS WAS PAINTED AT MY OWN EXPENSE
IT'S JUST SOME ARISTOCRAT BOOT CRUEL

...OH, BUT... SEND UP+ TROUBLE WITH THIS KITCHEN —
...WE SEEM TO HAVE PREPARED FAR TOO MUCH.
WE MAY EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FOOD...
...TO GIVE TO THE SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS —

IF EVERYONE WOULD EAT A LITTLE, YOU WOULD BE DOING US A GREAT FAVOUR...
WILL YOU PERMIT THIS?

BAM
バタアーン

TU-TU-TU-

COME NOW... CAN YOU SIT UP? WE'LL SIP THIS SLOWLY...
PAH!

WELL... YOU MUST BE AN ANGEL.
SO GOOD... IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

British Expeditionary Army Medical Department

THOSE CHARGED "NURSES" FROM BACK HOME ARE WORKING WITHOUT THE DOCTORS'?
WHAT...?

...FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
MY NAME IS...

I DO NOT LIKE THIS ...
I DO NOT LIKE THIS AT ALL ...
SO, WHAT SHALL WE DO, INSPECTOR GENERAL ?
WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE MIDDLING WOMEN, SIR JOHN HALL?
End of Chapter 5

THEY WERE BATTERED NOTHING BUT SOLID, HALF-GROWN MEAT...
JUST WHEN FOOD WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM CRY WITH JOY...
HOW WONDERFUL.
SPLENDID SO FLORENCE SAVED THE SICK AND WOUNDED —
...WAS ARSCHAT NOT CRUEL.

STILL... IT WASN'T GOING TO BE THAT EASY FOR HER.
NOW —
IN LESS THAN A WEEK, FLO'S ROOM TURNED INTO AN IMPROMPTU KITCHEN...
...AND SHE WAS PUTTING OUT MEALS FOR THE PATIENTS —

HENCEFORTH, YOU ARE NOT TO PERFORM ANY NURSING DUTIES WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S ORDERS!
DO NOT MISUNDER-STAND YOUR SITUATION! YOU CAN FINANCE YOUR "SPECIAL AGENCY" BUT THAT IS ALL!

chapter 8
THE GHOST WAITS FOR THE
THIS HOSPITAL IS FULLY FUNCTION-AL!
THE ARMY WILL NOT ACCEPT HELP FROM CIVILIANS!

RIP
HAVING SICK PATIENTS SLEEP IN THE HORRIBLE-SMELLING BEHIND THEM COULD POSSIBLY AFFECT THEIR FOOD...?
SILENCE!
IF THE FOOD IS BAD IT'S DUE TO YOUR LOT MONOPOLIZING THE KITCHEN!
AH... NOWADAYS WE'VE BEEN USING THE HEAD NURSE'S ROOM AS A KITCHEN...
UNDERSTOOD...
IF WE CAN BE OF HELP IN ANY WAY...
...JUST CALL US.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO PERSEVERE?
I WON'T SAVE YOU LIKE I DID AMIL, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ENTERTAINING.
...TO SEE YOU SNAP AT THEM AND BREAK YOUR MIND. P.O.

WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ON ABOUT?
AND ONE HERE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

...OKEY.
NOW... IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT...

THE PURVEYOR AND THE DOCTORS' EDUCATIONS... THEY'RE SHOWING HOSTILITY TOWARDS YOU. P.O...

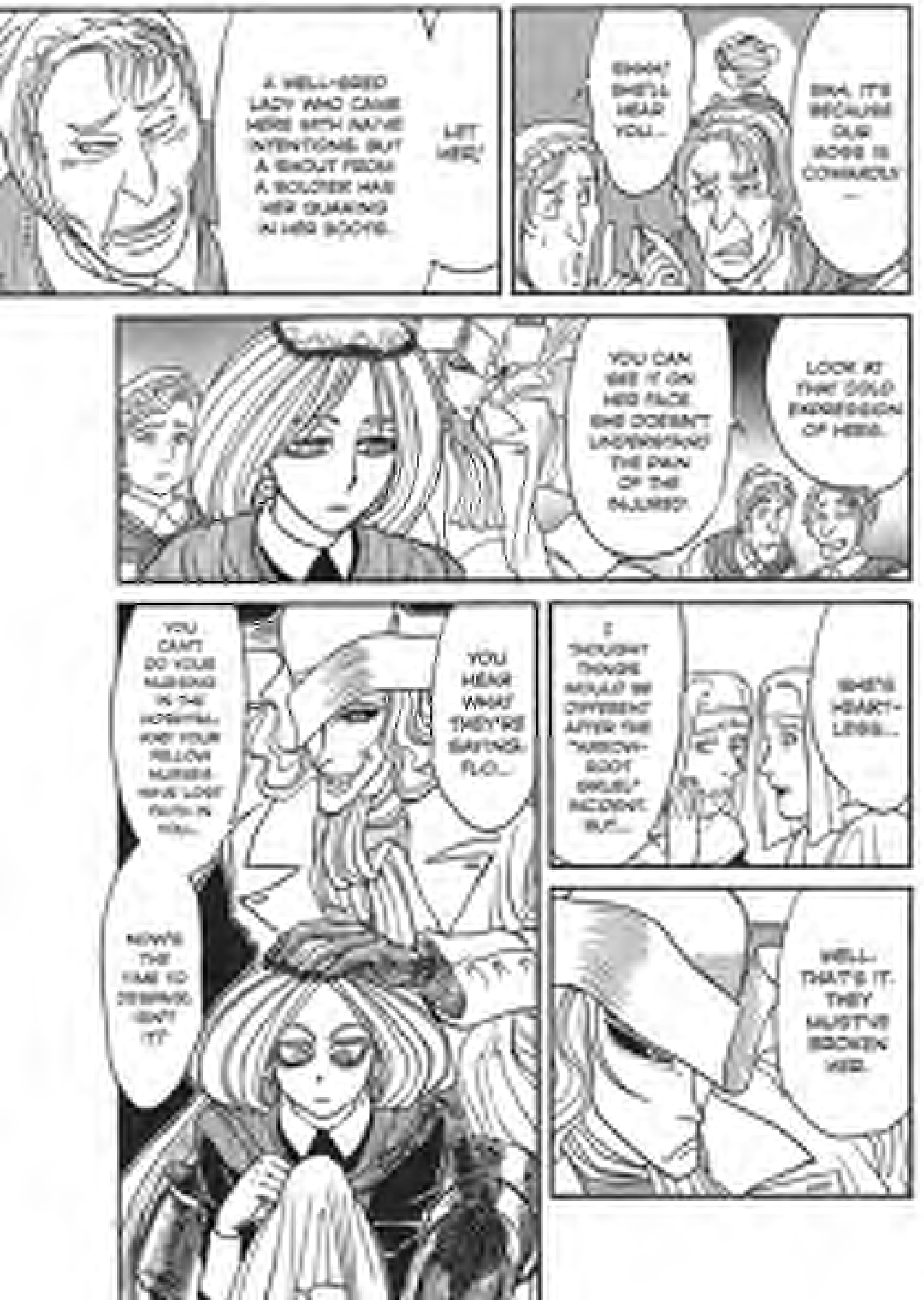
IF THEY BRING HER TO DESPAIR, I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE HER LIFE.
HUH — WHY DO I FEEL MYSELF SOMEWHAT BOTHERED?
MY DAYS OF BOREDOM CAME TO AN END.
AFTER THAT...
UNBELIEVABLE...
NATURALLY, THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT REFUSED EVERYTHING SHE BROUGHT...
THEY WERE UNDERWEAR, PILLOWS, AND SHEETS.
...AND CHECKED THE NUMBERS ON THEM.
UNDER FLO'S INSTRUCTIONS, THE 38 NURSES RECREATIONED OLD LINENS INTO BANDAGES AND GUAUZE...
THOSE DOCTORS DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT THEY LACKED SUPPLIES. SAVING FACE, I RECKON...

...WHILE THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS WRITHED IN AGONY-
THAT WOMAN MOUDNT ACT RASHEL...
AYE, WELL SHE COULD HAVE...
BUT ANY SISSY FLORENCE JUST FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT THE NURSES' HELP!

...SHE PLANNED MEDICATIONS AND DRESSINGS FOR TWO HOURS TO RECEIVE A PAT ON THE BACK

...SHE USUALLY KEPT BUSY WITH NEEDLEWORK
SCUTARI

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID WE COME HERE?
ALL WHILE THERE ARE MEN SUFFERING RIGHT NEAR US.
IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT NEEDLEWORK OUT IN AND OUT OUT...
FOUR DAYS SINCE WE'VE ARRIVED AND WE'VE DONE NOTHING!
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH!


A WELL-BRED LADY WHO CAME HERE WITH NO HE INTENTIONS. BUT A SHOT FROM A SOLDIER HAS HER GUARD IN HER BODY.
HIT HER!
SHH! SHE'LL HEAR YOU...
SHE IT'S BECAUSE OUR BOSS IS COWARDLY...
LOOK AT THAT GOLD EXPRESSION OF HERS.
YOU CAN SEE IT ON HER FACE. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF THE INJURED.
I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT AFTER THE "KUSUCHI-SOUP EARLY" INCIDENT, BUT...
SHE'S HEART-LESS...
YOU HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, FLO...
YOU CAN'T DO YOUR NURSING IN THE HOSPITAL. AND YOUR FELLOW NURSES HAVE LOST FAITH IN YOU.
NOW'S THE TIME TO REPAY ENT IT.
WELL, THAT'S IT. THEY MUST'VE BROKEN HER.

DEFY... YOU SEEM FRUSTRATED... IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU...?
HMM...
MY CONCERNS...?
NOW... IS THE TIME TO WAIT...
QUIET, YOU...
...ON THE 9TH OF NOVEMBER 1854, SHIPS ARRIVED AT SCUTARI PORT.
BUT...

Oooo

THEY ALREADY WANT FOR STAFF... THIS WILL BE A DISASTER...

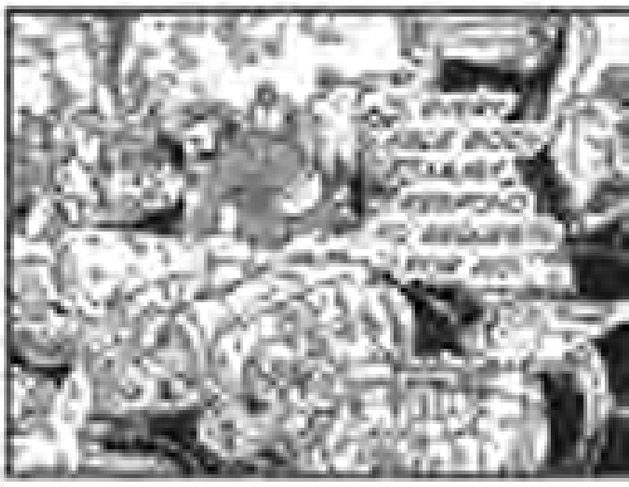
SOME-ONE HELP ME!!!
THE INNOM SOD DAMN IT!

AHHHH
THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE FIELD HOSPITAL AT SOLDIER FIELD FELL INTO A STATE OF MASS CONFUSION!
DOWN STAIRS IS FILLED WITH SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS ARRIVED WITH ONLY THIRTY MINUTES' WARNING

I'M NOT DRESSED! A SUIT DOWN AND A HAIRCUT

BUT EVEN WITH AMPLE WARNING, IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THIS HOSPITAL WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED

AS MUCH AS THEY ENJOY BEING THEIR PRESENCE HERE, I GUESS THEY NEED THEIR HELP TOO...
AND ESCORTED THE VISITING MD



AAAAAG!!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ANYONE YOU CAN!
SORRY! IT'S MY FIRST TIME!
PLEASE AGREE, CLARK! I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO STRETCH IT!
JUST WHERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE...?
BUT, SPEAKING OF...
HUH?
TO WHOM ARE YOU REFER-RING?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, DOCTOR... I WONDER WHY THE PEOPLE BEST SUITED FOR THIS AGENT HERE?
OH...
I-I'M SENIOR VERSION OF-
HUH?
HUH?
IT'S A BIRD!

PLEASE HELP!
MISS NIGHTINGALE! NURSE!!

YAAAY
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!
WITH PLEASURE!

FIRST, WE MUST OBEY THE RULES SO THAT WE MAY GAIN THE TRUST OF THE MILITARY AND THEIR DOCTORS.
...AND WE WILL NEVER ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.
THIS IS THE ARMY. IF WE BREAK REGULATIONS TO DO WHAT WE FEEL IS IMPORTANT, THE HIGHER-UPS AND DOCTORS WILL DESPISE US...

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! HEAD NURSE! A DOCTOR IS FINALLY ASKING FOR OUR HELP!
BUT DOCTOR, THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT HAS NOT GIVEN US PERMISSION TO PERFORM NURSING DUTIES.
S-CLIP

BUT THIS IS THE CHANCE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
THE MILITARY'S ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.
I MANAGED TO GRANT YOU PERMISSION!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT
THE DOCTORS MUST SIGN THAT RELEASE...
...AND CUMMINGS HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED ITS IMPORTANCE.
BUT MCGREGOR IT APPEARS THAT THE OTHER DOCTORS...
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER HENDRICKS HAS REFUSED!
BUT WE HAVE TO...
RULES ARE RULES, MCGREGOR!
OCTOBER

Dusty
it...
WHAT?
I GUESS
THERE'S
NO SHOW
TODAY...

SHE'S NOT
PLAYING THE
HEROINE...
BUT SURELY
IT'S NOT
DESERVING
EITHER...!?
THIS
WOMAN'S
BEEN
PUTTING
UP WITH
ALL THIS
NONSENSE
SINCE
COMING
HERE...

!!

BUT
THIS
WOMAN
JUST
QUIETLY
CONTIN-
UES TO
PUT UP
WITH ALL
THIS...

AHA?
HMM.
THIS IS
SUCH A
BORE...

A BORE... AH I...
GETTING FRUSTRATED
WAITING FOR HER TO
DO SOMETHING...!?

ALL THIS TIME... SHE JUST KEEPS PUTTING UP WITH IT...
THEREFORE, MISS NIGHTINGALE, WE CANNOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO PERFORM NURSING DUTIES.
YOU SIT UPON THE CURTAIN BRIDGE IT SEEM...
...AND HAVE SPOILED THIS WOMAN'S SCENE. WHICH I AM SO LOOKING FORWARD TO.

THESE- ARE, THE GODS OF HONOUR DE- MANDS ...
...THAT I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME.
...TO A DUEL.
THUS, I CHAL- LENGE YOU...

BOOM

"FOR UPON THIS QUEST LIES A PRIVY PICTURE."
—HENRY V, ACT I...
...OKEY-DOKEY...!!

YEAH...
I, ER...
DR. MEN-ZIES! CAN'T YOU GRANT THEM PER-MIS-SION?!

HERE'S YOUR SCENE. SO KABUCH, PLO.

Y...YES, MA'AM!
ANYWAY, CHIEF, LET'S GO!

A... ALL RIGHT. PERMIS-SION GRANT-ED...

AT LAST THE TIME HAD COME FOR THEM TO PERFORM THE NURSING DUTIES THAT THEY SO DESIRED.
THAT DAY, FLORENCE AND HER 38 NURSES WERE ROUSED TO ACTION WITH INCREDIBLE FERVOUR.
"IF IT WERE DONE WHEN 'TIS DONE, THEN 'TWERE WELL IT WERE DONE QUICKLY"
—MACBETH ACT I, SCENE 7

...NOW HAD TO ASK FOR THEIR HELP AS THE SICK AND WOUNDED POURED IN.

WITH THE ARMY DOCTORS THAT HAD SO ADAMANTLY REFUSED THEM...

NOW... SO WERE NIGHTINGALE'S COULD FINALLY...?
THE ARMY, MUCH TO THEIR CHAGRIN, HAD TO LET FLO AND THEIR NURSES DO THEIR JOB.

...ONLY TO STEP INTO THE HELL OF THE CRIMEAN WAR.

SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO LEAVE THE COMFORTABLE LIFE OF HER COUNTRY MANOR...

chapter 9
THE GHOST PRESS - THE LADY GO TO WAR
OVER THERE! GO HELP THERE!
IT'S TOO LATE! FORGET ABOUT HIM!

AAAAAH!
THE LEAD POISONING FROM THAT BULLET'S CAUSING DAMAGE!
IF WE DON'T CUT OFF YOUR LEG, THE POISON WILL KILL YOU!
NURSE! HAVE HIM BITE A BULLET!
AAAH!
PLEASE BEAR WITH THE PAIN.
PLEASE BITE ON THIS.

MURDER WOULD NOW DOWN WITH ALL YOUR ANGER!!
UNNNH!

...HIS DOCTOR!

CANCER FORM...?! AHAH...

ACCORDING TO RJO, THE TOP MAN AT THE TIME, KIRKLTON GENERAL HALL HAD SAID...
TU DEAD.
SO TO FORGOTTEN THE PAIN OF THE LIVING.

THEY AMPU-TATED HIS LEG...
...WITH-OUT ANAES-THESIA... THAT'S HOR-RIBLE...

THE SHARP OF THE KNIFE IS A POWERFUL STIMULANT.
IT IS MUCH BETTER TO HEAR A MAN SING LUSTILY...
...THAN TO SEE HIM SINK SILENTLY INTO THE GRAVE.

HOLD ON...
PLEASE... HOLD ON...

GHHHH!!
AHH... PLEASE...

NOW THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT US.
WHEN WE WANTED TO IGNORE ORDERS AND NURSE THE SOLDIERS, YOU TOLD US TO "WAIT." DON'T YOU?
HUH?
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE AWAY- FROM THAT'S HEAD NURSE F

...HAS JUST BEGUN!
...YES. BUT FOR US, THE FIGHT —
IF WE HAD IGNORED THEM AND STARTED NURSING WITHOUT PERMISSION, IT WOULD'VE SHIFTED HOSTILITY FROM THE DOCTORS, GIVING THEM MORE REASON TO REFUSE US.
BUT YOU MADE THE RIGHT JUDG- MENT —

YES, MA'AM!

HUHH — DESPAIR ?
WELL... IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT WILL HAPPEN SOON...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, GREY ...?
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING... FOR ME TO DESPAIR, HAVEN'T YOU?
...YES. YOU STEPPED IN AND DEFEATED THE ECCLONS OF THOSE OFFICERS.
AND THANKS TO THAT, THE BATTERY WAS BURY...
BUT IF I END MYSELF WITH A BIT MORE IDLE TIME...
HUH ...?
HEY! YOU NURSE! THERE WE NEED YOUR HELP!
...I'LL SURELY SUCCUMB TO DESPAIR.
GO PLEASE STAY BY ME.

THAT HAS TO BE THE ABSOLUTE STRANGEST REQUEST I'VE HEARD YET...
...WHEN YOU HAVE A BIT MORE OLD TIME FEN...
...WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL
REPORTING AS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE TIMES...
...AND WITH THE CURRENT LACK OF SPACE AND BOOZE, THE HOSPITAL IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE.
MEANWHILE, THE RECORD ARE ALREADY BEEN FILLED TO CAPACITY WITH WOUNDED SOLDIERS, SURGEONS [illegible] DOCTORS WITH NO TIME TO [illegible] SEE EACH AND EVERY PERSON
...AND FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND HER TEAM OF NURSES HAVE BEEN ASSISTING WITHOUT REST.
THE MEDICAL OCCUPATION OF [illegible] MORALES AMONG BRITISH SOLDIERS
THE WAR AND MISERY CONTINUE TO RUSH INTO THE FIELD HOSPITAL AT SCUTARI.

DID YOU HEAR? STORMS SUNK EVERY SHIP IN THE PORT !!

WE ALREADY COULDN'T GET ANY-THING FROM THE COMMIS-SARIAT AND NOW THIS...
WHAT...?! OUR WINTER CLOTHES AND FOOD STORES WERE ON THOSE SHIPS!

THIS IS TOO MUCH! WE PURVEYORS CAN'T JUST PULL FOOD AND CLOTHING OUT OF THIN AIR!

THE CURRENT SITUATION HAS CREATED A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF SUPPLIES

UHHH-UHH-AHH...
AND THE SOLDIERS INJURED IN BATTLE OR AFFLICTED BY INFECTION, DIARRHEA, OR MALNUTRITION NEVER ARE TREATED LIKE OLD MEN
THE PURVEYORS ARE USELESS...

EVEN THE NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL DR. CUMANO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

HM... WHAT IS?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SUPPLIES, THERE'S A PLACE THAT HAS THEM...
HA HA YOU DON'T KNOW?

SO... HOW...?
JUST WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

HAVE THE PURVEYORS AND THEN WE CAN'T PUBLISH ANYTHING!
(!!) YOU PAY SOME OBSCENE SUM FOR ACCESS TO A SALIVA-DRIPPING SCOOP!
N-NO! DOCUMENTS FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT THEY ARE SUPPLIED LEGITIMATELY!

...THERE ARE ONLY MOMMY AND ANGLE FUNDS WE WILL BE THE AUTHORITY TO USE THOSE FUNDS
AS THAT HOSPITAL SUPPORTS MOMMY'S CHILDREN SUPPORTS OF JUDGING...

...PHEW... WE'VE BEEN SAVED. WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THE PATIENTS WITH THIS.

10 DOZEN BANDAGES. 20 CUBIC CHESTS.
SEND THAT BEEF ESSENCE FROM THERE, TOO.

IT WAS MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
SHE HAD RETURNED A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FROM OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

MISS NIGHTINGALE HAD BEEN CHECKING THE HOSPITAL'S STORES DAILY FOR THIS VERY MOMENT

SORRY ...
...YOU'VE SAVED US... WE WERE OUT OF BAN-DAGES

AND HAD PURCHASED ALL MANNER OF ITEMS FROM THE HOSPITAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE

...AND THE PICKINGS ARE RUNNING...

...AND SENIOR SURGEON DR. MCCORMICK, AN ANEMIC YOUTH UNCONSOLED BY BAD HAIR.
HER FIRST ALLY.
OF COURSE, DR. MCCORMICK.
MISS NIGHTINGALE, FROM BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE DUKE'S HAS A MIGRAINE.

OF COURSE! I'M YOUR GENERAL STORE. I HAVE IT ALL!
I... UH... WOULD LIKE SOME... FRESH VEGETA-BLES...
CABBAGE, CARROTS, UNDERWEAR, TROUSERS, FLEA POWDER— WE HAVE WHAT YOU NEED.

THOSE WHO HAD ONCE DESPISED HER AS A BURDEN SLOWLY CAME TO RELY ON HER. THEIR MOTTO BEING...

OHHH! BOB!
LOOK AT YOU! FIT AS A FIDDLE!
HEY, YE DOIN' YER EXCIT-ING AGAIN?
MISS NIGHT-INGALE...?
YEH!
THAT'S GREAT!
HA, HA, HA! THANKS TO MISS NIGHT-INGALE'S GRUEL!
SQUEEZE
OF COURSE! ANYONE'S AWFS MIT AN ANGEL O' MERCY ON THE CASE!
PLEASED AS PUNCH, ARE YOU, BOB?
Y...Y... YES, MISS NIGHT-INGALE, MA'AM!!
YOU'RE LOOKIN' OUTTA THIS WORLD TOO!
OH, BOBBY!
HA, HA, HA! ANGEL- IT? COME NOW, BOB! YOU SEE WINGS ON HER BACK?

I DON'T SEE... ANYONE...
WHAT IS IT? BOSS?
P.
OH DEAR
BUT THERE'S SOME-THING... RIGHT-IN A HEAP HERE
...GONNA KILL... MISS NIGHTIN-GALE.
THAT VOICE?

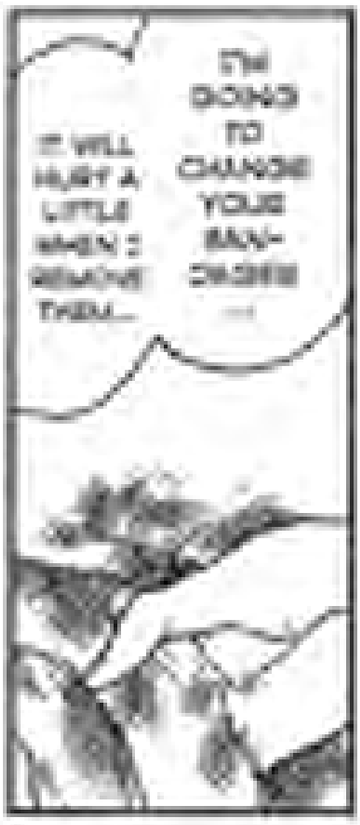
ROBERT, I AM AWARE OF IT.
AH, ROBERT!
WHAT'S YOU SAYING, BOY? DON'T BE RUDE TO YOUR ANGEL!
AHA- ROBERT! SINCE WHEN HAVE I BEEN YOUR PROTEC- TOR?
HE'S MY WON- DERFUL KNIGHT!
BUT UNTIL HIS TIME TO KILL ME COMES, HE IS MY PROTEC- TOR!
YOU BRAT... IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, THEN LET'S YOU AND I HAVE A BRIEF TALK.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH...
GRRR!
I'M HERE TO DEEPEN YOUR DESIRE!

WHAT? IS IT? LET'S DO THIS QUICK!
HEY, WHERE YOU OR GO?
OKAY

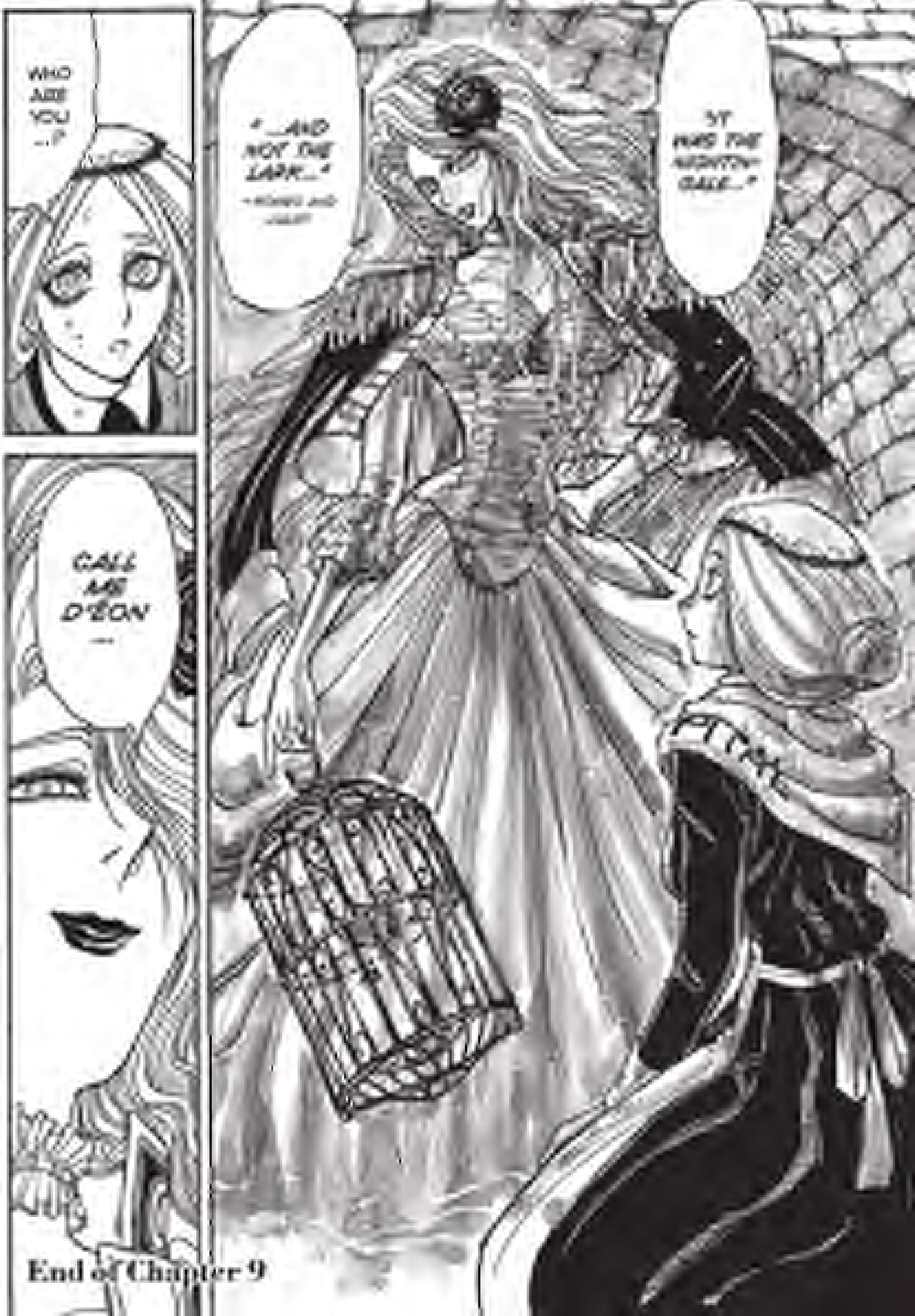
AH, WELL BACK TO WORK!
GOOD-BYE, MR. RUS-SELL

A HOUSE MAID ONLY KNEW HOW TO DO WITH HER!
HMM! MURRR! THESE ARE NEW SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS ARRIVING!

YES-NAPKIN.
BACK BRAIN INTO THAT BACK AND MAKE IT INTO A BED...
IN THE BASKET OVER THERE. THERE'S A BACK BRAIN TOGETHER FROM SHEETS.


I'M GOING TO CHANGE YOUR BAN-DAGES ...
IT WILL HURT A LITTLE WHEN I REMOVE THEM...

IT IS NOT HARD. THIS IS MY JOB...
THEY'VE GOT YOU KNEELING ON THE GROUND ALL MYSTERIOUSLY...
...MUST BE HARD.
I'LL BRING YOU SOME WATER NOW...
I HAVE TO WONDER WHY YOU CHOSE TO ATTEND TO THE GRAVELY ILL IN SO DISTANT A LAND...
YOU COULD BE LIVING A LIFE FREE OF INCONVENIENCE BACK IN ENGLAND, COUGHT YOU?
OR DO YOU LIKE TO PEER INTO THEIR EYES AS THEY GO?
WAIT—?
...YOU JUST LIKE ANTICHRIST FRANCIS DAE.
...FOR WE SHALL BE THE SAME AFTER-ALL...
IF THAT'S THEN IT PLEASES ME...



End of Chapter 9

OOH... SO AT THE FIELD HOSPITAL WHERE MISS NIGHTINGALE WORKED DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR...
A STRANGE WOMAN APPEARED
AYE... I WASN'T NEXT TO HER AT THE TIME, SO I DON'T KNOW TOO WELL ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED.

AYE. INDEED.
DEAN WANTED SOMETHING.
SO DID THAT PERSON WANT SOMETHING FROM MISS NIGHTINGALE
HM. DEAN?

chapter 10
THE GHOST AND THE LADY MEET D'EON
YOU'RE QUITE FAMOUS, YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE THE HEAD NURSE WHO LED A GROUP OF NURSES TO A DREARY BATTLEFIELD.
OKAY.
...YOU KNOW WHO I AM...?
MISS D'EON?

WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN WEALTH...COME TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE TO NURSE THE SICK?
OH... AND I CAME HERE TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.

YOU'RE FRENCH...?

WHAT A BUSY WOMAN...

COULD YOU COME WITH ME?

WELL...

!

WHY'D YE BRING ME OUT HERE TO TALK? I'VE THINGS TO DO. SO HURRY IT UP!
YOU CHEEKY BRAT... DON'T GO TELLING EVERYONE THAT I'M HAUNTING FLO...

I'M USED TO SEEIN' YE GHOSTS ON THIS BATTLEFIELD! THERE'S SO MANY OF YE IT'S REVOLTIN'! IF YER GONNA KILL ME, THEN BE QUICK WIT' IT!
GUESS THIS BRAT CAN SEE SPIRITS TOO. JUST LIKE FLO...

I'D JUST BE MAKIN' TROUBLE FOR HER NIGHTMARE GALE IF I DID THAT AND IT'D TAKE ME TO GET
HOW, HEAR ME, GHOST! I'M NOT AT ALL SCARED A YE!

I CAN'T DO THIS!
OI, YE KNOW-NOTIN' GHOST! HURRY 'N' SCREW OFF SOME-WHERE!

THAT REALLY PLEASES YOU, DOESN'T IT?
WHAT? MISS NIGHTMARE GALE CAN SEE THEM TOO?!

HUHHH?!
I'M TO TAKE THAT MOMENT'S LIFE THE VERY MOMENT SHE FALLS TO DESPAIR.
AND TO BE CLEAR, IT WAS SHE WHO CHOSE ME WITH THE TASK.
HOW DARE YOU...
I WON'T ALLOW IT, MY ANGEL...
GO! GET OUT OF HERE!!
I'M NOT GONNA KILL HER NOW, YOU BRAT!
YOU JUST NEED TO LOOK AT HER. SHE WON'T DESPAIR AT ALL. EVEN IN THIS BATTLE...
I WON'T BE KILLING HER FOR SOME TIME...
FOR SOME TIME? SO...
...SINCE WHEN DID YOU WANT TO KILL HER...?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, BOY?
JUST A MOMENT AGO YOU SAID "THERE'S SOMETHIN' FRIGHTFUL NEAR HER... THAT THING'S GONNA KILL HER," DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?

AN OPEN WOUND... HE WAS HIT BY DEBRIS DURING AN EXPLOSION.
I'LL WET IT WITH BANDAGES. PLEASE HELP ME.
あああ
THERE ARE SO MANY SEVERELY WOUNDED PATIENTS BEING PLACED OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL.
DID SOMEONE TELL YOU ABOUT THIS?
NO... I JUST KNEW SOMEHOW.
MISS DITCH, PLEASE HURRY
I'LL TEACH YOU!
I'D RATHER NOT. I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.
KNEE
TURN IT OVER AND WRAP
THIS IS HOW YOU DRESS WOUNDS OF UNEVEN THICKNESS...
YOU... HAVE A DIFFERENT LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU DO THIS...
OH... IF THOSE ARE CHILDLIKE

...ABOUT YOUR QUESTION BEFORE...
BOBBY, WHERE'S DR. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU TAKE HIS HAND...?
...ARE HANDS NOT THROUGH THE FABRIC OF HIS CLOTHING.
HEY, BUTCHO. SO HERE SOMEBODY TO CHIN-PULL...
EVEN I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY.
...WHY DID I COME HERE TO NURSE?
IT WAS NURSING.
UNTIL... I FINALLY FOUND IT.
BUT HE DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO... SO FOR A LONG TIME I STRUGGLED IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER...
BUT... LONG AGO I HEARD THE VOICE OF GOD. "SERVE GOD." HE SAID...
DO YOU NOT HOLD YOUR OWN LIFE DEAR?
OH...? BUT THIS IS A VOW... I HEARD THAT YOU ALSO NURSED CHOLERA PATIENTS BEFORE.

OH HO HO! INDEED!
HAVE YOU NOT CONSIDERED A RUSSIAN MARRIAGE WITH A FINE GENTLEMEN?
IF I MUST LIVE A LIFE THAT BETRAYS THE WILL OF GOD, A LIFE WHERE I CANNOT BE OF USE...
...THEN I WOULD RATHER DIE...
THE "FOUR SOMETHINGS"... A CHECKLIST FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE...
SOMETHING OLD.
SOMETHING NEW
SOMETHING BORROWED
SOMETHING BLUE
I'VE GIVEN UP SUCH THINGS...
IF I CAN HELP PEOPLE HERE, THEN... I NEED NOTHING ELSE IN MY LIFE.
AND WE'RE ALMOST DONE... JUST A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE...

I LOVE WATCHING WOMEN LIKE YOU...
YOU TRULY ARE PURENESS AND STRENGTH OF WILL MADE REAL... SUCH ARTISTIC BEAUTY AND PURITY...
HUH?
LOVELY.
ARED-CUTED LOVELY.

YOU HAVE NO NEED FOR AN EIDOLON ABOVE YOUR TINY HEAD.
TO SURVIVE, YOU NEED NEITHER GUILD NOR WORSHIPPERS...
YOU ARE A PURE LIFE, DAILY LIVING OUT YOUR DAYS.
THIS IS A LARK... A CUTE LITTLE BIRD...
OH, SHALL WE RELEASE IT FROM ITS CRAMPED CAGE?
OH, YES... I LOVE EIDOLONS AS WELL...
NEW?
MISS DEON, YOU SEE EIDOLONS, TOO?
BUT I PREFER THINGS THAT ARE MORE... SEXUAL.

SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
IS THAT ARSENT WHEN A PLANE CAN BE SHOVED OUT...
...GET READY DEATH GOING HOW MUCH DEMAR COMES INTO THEIR EYE...
WHATCHA YA SAYIN, GHOST?
I AIN'T TALKIN' 'BOUT YE!
THAT ARSENT
NO REALLY THREE-ONE

HUH?
SIGH. I ALREADY TOLD YA. THERE'S SUPPOSED GHOSTS LIKE YA 'ROUND HERE!
THE GHOST I WAS TALKIN' 'BOUT WAS WAAAY SCARIER AND EVILER THAN THE LIKES OF YA!

I'M TELLIN' YA THAT SHERIFF'S SQUAD HERE SOME-WHERE!
AND THAT THERE HAS IT OUT FER HOSS MIGHTINESS!!
WHAT'S MAKING MY SELF HOW COULD YA NOT NOTICE WHEN YER A GHOST YERSELF?!
YER SUPPOSED TO BE BY HERE BEAR, SO WHY'D YA CALL ME OUT HERE FOR THIS BOSH WALLSKEY?

SOME EVIL FELLOW...? THIS PLACE IS RATHER HOISY WITH CURSES AND DEATH...
...BUT I DIDN'T NOTICE SUCH A PRESENCE —
AH, ENOUGH! LET'S GO!

WHAT ARE YOU —
WHO ARE YOU —

AND I WORK FOR THIS SOME-ONE...

YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS TO COMPLETE YOUR PRECIOUS MISSION... YOU'RE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR A CERTAIN SOMEONE...
YOU SEE...

A FORMER DUEL-LIST.
—DYSON DE BEAU-MONT.
MY NAME IS...
SHINK!?

WHOOSH

SCRR

THE LOOK OF SURPRISE ON YOUR FACE, MISS NIGHTINGALE... IT'S ALSO QUITE SEXY...
OH NO NO... I MISSED ON PURPOSE.

CLANG

JAB

SHING

G...
GAH...

End of Chapter 10

SHE WAS DEAD! ATTACKED MISS NIGHTINGALE...
WA... WH- WH- WHAT?
AND WAS THAT ŒDIPUS WOMAN...?!

A... AND MR. GREY, TOO...
WHY WERE YOU SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAW HER?!

...WELL... ABOUT ŒDIPUS...
I'LL TELL YOU! YOU'RE MUCH TOO CAPTIVATED BY FATE!
HEY! YOU'RE TOO CLOSE! TOO CLOSE, I SAY! YOU'RE INSIDE ME, MADAM CURATOR!!

HUH? GREY... WHAT'S AROUND ?
GREY! SHE DREW HER SWORD, AND SUDDENLY —
YOU LOOK STRANGE!
chapter 11
THE LADY WITNESSES THE GHOST'S CLASH
O'BEON... WHY ARE YOU HERE —?
SLIT
WELL WELL... I TRY TO HUNT A NIGHTINGALE AND A FAMILIAR FACE COMES ALONG TO PROTECT IT...
Y... YOU ...!!

Y... YOU K... KNOW HER ?!
...AN ASSASSIN FROM LONG AGO. AT WHOSE CHARGE ARE YOU HERE...?

...AND SURELY QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS ARISE HERE AT SOLUM.
WE BELIEVE THAT SHE GOING JOY ASKED FOR THE ABNORMAL CONDITION OF OUR MEDICAL DOMAIN.
SO... WHAT STATE ARE WE IN, CHIEF SURVEYOR-IN-CHIEF PYTHAGALO?

IT'S ALL IT IS WRITTEN IN OUR REPORT TO THE SURGEON GENERAL— "OUR EATING FACILITY IS OVERSEEN SUPERVISED AND TO SATISFACTION."
INSPECTOR GENERAL HALL, SIR!

YES, SIR.

AND WE ARE DEEPLY SATISFIED WITH OUR STOCK OF FOOD, OF WHICH WE ARE NOT LACKING..."

Hah hah... I see... That is said for all the person in charge of the Soviet Medical Department.

SO THAT "RESPECT" WOULD BECOME A LIE?

...this calls for me to step in, Sir Hall.

I, the Chevalier d'Eon.
AND SHALL I DO SO?
HERE AND BYELON
JOY. DEVALD.

...BE BEARING ANY RESIDUE ASHES
AN'S NIGHTINGALE WILL NO LONGER...

...EVEN POS-SIBLE ...?
IS THAT...
...FROM LONG AGO...?
AN ASSASSIN

SHE'S... A GHOST ...?
I DIDN'T NOTICE

AXEL BEEN DEAD FOR AGES

I WILL DRAW UPON THE "CODE OF HON-OUR"
HEH...
AS PROMISED

AND IT SEEMS THAT YOUR GHOSTLY COMPANION DOES NOT OWE ANY TO THIS ERA...
YOU APPEAR TO HAVE AN IDEA OF THE SITUATION I'M TO KILL YOU...

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! WE'RE BOTH DEAD!
I SHALL GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME— NOT

BUT MY SABRINA CAN STILL TURN YOU TO DUST!!

AND LOVE YOU!

WHAT A WAY TO GREET ME! I'M ALSO THE FORMER CAPTAIN OF DRAGOONS AND SECRETARY OF THE DEBTS OF ST. LOUIS!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SPY AND AN ABERRATION
I WAS ASTONISHED TO HEAR YOU HAD BECOME THE MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FROM FRANCE
I'LL HEAR NOTHING OF "STATUS" FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!
BOOM
BOOM

STAB

I'M THE ONE TO TAKE HER LIFE! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO KILL HER!

BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THIS LADY WHOM I TARGET?

...TO STAND BEFORE ME AGAIN ...
OH? WELL, I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT. BUT YOU ARE QUITE FOOLISH ...
...WITH SUCH POOR FIGHT-ING SKILLS.

...AGAIN?
NOW I WILL KILL YOU A SECOND TIME.
BUSHI

I KILLED YOU IN THE DRURY LANE THEATRE
...NEARLY 90 YEARS AGO. DID I NOT?
SHHHH

GREEY!!

ARE YOU TRUE AGAIN...?

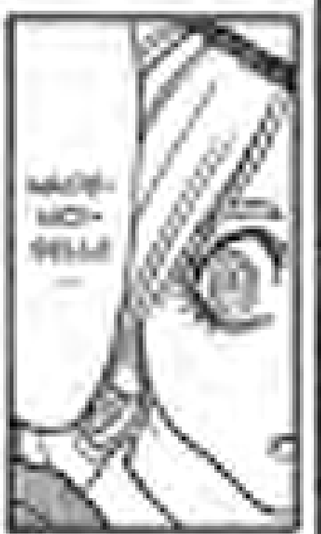
I'VE LOST MY HEAD NOW. SO BE A GOOD BOY AND FACE AWAY.

SLAP
FWOOW
ZZW
ZZW

CA-CHING
OH... YOU WERE BUT A DEC-ENT KNIGHT WHEN I MET YOU LAST.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE IM-PROVED A LITTLE.
HEH HEH. QUITE INTERESTING. FOR NOW, I SHALL LEAVE YOU.
SO AM I TO UNDER-STAND... THAT MISS NIGHTINGALE IS YOUR WOMAN?
...

BEFORE WE AGNT MEET, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE —
— TO PREVENT YOUR "SOMETHING" FROM BETRAYING YOU LIKE BEFORE.

JUST ASSURED. I WILL CLEAR YOUR LIFE.
BE-CAUSE THE MISSION OF YOUR PROTECTOR.


HUH-HO-HUH

GREY... HE NOT WEAK...

IT'S BEST THAT YOU SAY YOUR FAREWELLS SOON.

THAT BASTARD... HELD BACK ON PURPOSE...
...STAY BACK!
GREY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
D... DAMN IT... SHE ON...

LIKE BEFORE...
...COULD'VE BEEN KILLED AT ANY TIME...!

I HAD ALL BUT FOR-GOTTEN UNTIL HERE NO-MENTS AGO
AH!
YOU DID IN A DUEL AGAINST HER, DIDN'T YOU?
OBEY

DEON LOOKS LIKE WOMAN-BUT IS ALSO A MAN...
YES, I DO...
...R-O... YOU CALLED THAT BASTARD A "SHE"
...

MON-STROUSLY SKILLED AT DUELLING
DÉON... ARE A FAMED DUELLIST 100 YEARS AGO.

BUT...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BE KILLED?
OR AT LEAST THAT WAS THE NAME GIVEN ON THE DAY I WAS KILLED
NEITHER MAN NOR WOMAN, THE BEAUTIFUL KNIGHT WHOM THE PEOPLE CALLED
...THE CHEVALIER D'ÉON.

IT HAPPENED IN LONDON IN 1763... AT THE DRURY LANE THEATRE
End of Chapter 11

IT'S A HEAD-SCRATCHER...

MADAM CURATOR —
HEY... JUST A MINUTE —
I CAN'T CALMLY TELL THE STORY IF YOU'RE IN ME LIKE THIS!
HURRY AND TELL ME WHAT YOU TOLD FLOR-ENCE!
YOU WERE FINALLY ABOUT TO REVEAL YOUR ORIGIN STORY!
YES!
OH...
YOU DID!
BUT MY STORY ISN'T SO INTERIGHT-ING...
AHHH...
YOU SIT THERE!
FINE! FINE!

Chapter 12
THE GHOST TELLS THE LADY HIS STORY

おぁぁん
おぁぁん

ON A NIGHT OF POURING RAIN IN NOVEMBER...
...I WAS ABANDONED AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE THEATER ROYAL. ONLY! LIKE

JUST MOMENTS BEFORE, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAW A WOMAN FLEEING THE SCENE.
PERHAPS THAT WAS MY MOTHER...

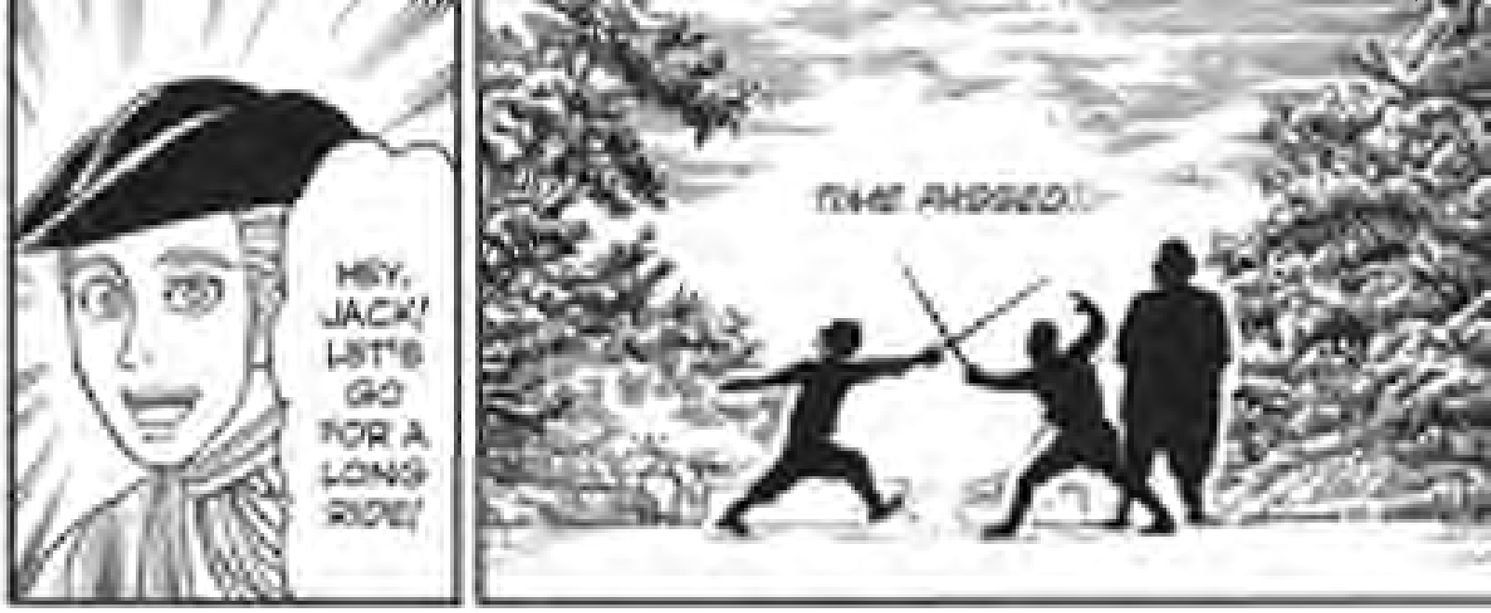
I WAS RAISED IN THE PARISH ORPHANAGE UNTIL THE AGE OF NINE.
AFTER THAT, I SPENT A NUMBER OF YEARS IN A ROTTEN WORK-HOUSE.
TOO SLOW! WHAT'RE YA DOIN', JACK!!

THERE, I WOULD GOBBLE UP A BOWL OF THIN GRUEL...
...AND WORK THE WHOLE DAY UNDERGROUND WITH TO MANY OKAJA...

FORGIVE ME FOR HEADING YOUR IMPORTANT STORY WHILE WORKING.
I HAD NO PARENTS, SO I WAS LIKELY GIVEN THE FIRST NAME THAT CAME TO MIND.
JACK... YOUR REAL NAME IS JACK...

£5
BOY
OFFERED
THIS IS EASIER FOR ME.
NO, THIS IS FINE... I DON'T WANT TO HAVE THIS TALK FACE-TO-FACE...

I WAS TO BE AN ORNAMENT FOR THE YOUNG MASTER'S SWORD PRACTICE
IN ADDITION TO MY DUTIES, I WAS GIVEN A SPECIFIC ROLE.
AT 14, I WAS TAKEN OUT TO A MANOR TO ABUSE FROM LONDON
YOU'LL KILL YOUR WRISTS.
WRONG. DON'T GRIP THE HILT SO TIGHTLY.
HE NEEDED A TRAINING PARTNER WHO COULD DIE AT ANY MOMENT AND FOR WHATEVER REASON WITHOUT REGRET.
ALTHOUGH IT WAS A BOOTHILL TO COME UNDER CONTROL, DUELLING WAS STILL POPULAR AND FOR THE YOUNG MASTER'S EDUCATION.
HONGH
AND SOON I GREW ACCUSTOMED TO THE SWORD.
I LEARNED BY WATCHING.


HEY, JACK! LET'S GO FOR A LONG RIDE!
TIME PASSED...

I'LL NOT LOSE, YOUNG MASTER!

YES, MY LORD... THE FLINT DOESN'T STRIKE THE STEEL...
I SEE. THAT MAY BE WHY IT DOESN'T FIRE...
AND...
...ON THE RIGHT AND PISTOL IS ALREADY LOADED.
YES, MY LORD.
HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE ARE YOU ARE, JACK! YOU'LL COME WITH ME ON MY NEXT HUNT!

BUT IN MY INNOCENCE I TRUSTED HIM
HE NEVER MATCHED ME WITH THE SWORD OF ARES
THE YOUNG MASTER... WILLIAM WAS HIS NAME...
...THAT SIMPLE TRUTH FROM THE TIME OF MY BIRTH...
NO... YOU GO EASY ON ME...
AH YES... I HAD FORGOTTEN...
YOU STILL ARE ALWAYS THE YOUNG MASTER.
...BY MY MOTHER...
...BE-TRAYED...
...I HAD BEEN...
YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM LUCIFER EGRA-PILE
BUT YOU NEGLECT YOUR SWORD PRACTICE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.
I AM ONLY SPEAK-ING WITH-OUT CAUSE...
AND INSTEAD CONCERN ABOUT THE TAVERNS AND WOMEN TO YOU NOT!!
THAT'S JUST... IT'S UN-HEARD OF! WE KNOW NOTHING OF HIS BLOOD-LINE...
FATHER, ARE YOU IN YOUR RIGHT MIND !?
ADOPT LUCK ?!

OF COURSE, THAT DAY WAS A GOOD ONE AS WELL.
SSHUUU
HP HP

FLASH

I... I WOULD NEVER DREAM OF IT... YOUNG MASTER... YOU ARE MY DEAR FRIEND...
HOW DARE YOU INDICATE YOURSELF WITH FATHER. YOU VILE BASTARD! DO YOU INTEND TO CLAIM MY INHERITANCE, JACK?!
AHH... AHH... WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME, YOUNG MASTER?!

IT? HA! A BACK-ALLEY GUTTER RAT LIKE YOU IT?
NOT ONCE HAVE I THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY COM-PANION!
DID YOU NOT ONCE CALL ME YOUR "COM-PAN-ION" IT?
YOUNG MAS-TER, YOU TAUGHT ME TO READ
MY DESTINY...
...AND FORGOTTEN.
BOMF
...IS TO BE BETRAYED.

I HAD POWER LEFT... WITH NO MONEY OR PLACE TO RE-TURN TO SURELY I WOULD SEE THE
I THOUGHT I WOULD SOON BE CAUGHT
I FLED...
FACED WITH THIS NEW BETRAYAL...
...AND A PLACE I HEARD TO BE ALONG THE ROAD FROM TEMPLE, LONDON TOWARDS STRAND...
WHAT CAME TO MIND...
"A PLACE TO RETURN TO"...

SO THIS... THIS IS WHERE MY MOTHER... ABAN-DONED ME AS A BABY...
IT WAS RAINING THAT DAY, TOO.
I FINALLY ARRIVED THERE AFTER A WEEK OF TRAVEL.
THE AIRSHIP BERTH. NO ONE BEFORE. THESE PEOPLE GOING TO ONE ANOTHER...
AND IF I'M TO HAVE ANYWAY...
I KNOW THAT, WHETHER TODAY OR THE NEXT, SOMEDAY I'LL BE CAUGHT.

YAYY
ホワ
ああ

...NEVER HEARD SUCH NOISE! I'LL KITCHEN... ALL PERFORMED IN THIS DAZZLING PLACE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH... BEAUTY

WHAT... IS THIS ATMOSPHERE!?

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'VE COME TO KNOW THE REALITY OF THIS WORLD.
THE ONLY KNOWN POWERS: FOOD, THE SWORD AND THE PISTOL.

...I WANT MORE...
MORE...

I WANT TO SIT IN THIS PLACE AND SEE MORE PLAYS!
MORE! MORE!
WHAT'S YOUR BLOODY PROBLEM? YOU'VE BEEN CLOMPING ABOUND BEHIND ME THIS WHOLE TIME!

WHOA! LOOK AT YOU! COUNTRY-BUMPKIN COME TO SEE THE ROYAL THEATER! HURRY BACK TO YOUR HOVEL!
H...HOW DARE YOU! YOUR DAMNED OGANOS PIXELS KEEP HITTING ME!
I COULDN'T ENJOY HALF OF THE PLAY THANKS TO YOU!
THIS WILL BE SETTLED WITH A DUEL.
grin
--PISTOLS!? NO.
H... HOW YOU... INSULT ME! DO YOU WISH TO ENGAGE IN RETOURNE?
DEAR-EST UNCLE?
RUH...?
A D... DUEL!? WAI... WAIT A MOMENT... YOU CAN'T JUST...
WHAT I HAVE NO POWERS OR...
...BUT I STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!

COME NOW, UNCLE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT ME. DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE FACE OF YOUR BELOVED NEPHEW?
HUH?
HUH?
YOU ASK TO DUEL. SHALL I STAND IN YOUR PLACE?
THE DUEL WHICH THEN TOOK PLACE AT ANGE MARK, AND SETTLED WITH SURPRISING SWIFTNESS...
...THAT WAS EASY...
WELL...
SO MY BEARD HAS GROWN THE RICH MAN HAS FLEECED
...AND THANKS TO THAT I TRAVELLED AROUND AS A PROUD-SPIRITED KNIGHT ERRANT!
MY BEARD GOOD WORD OF MY SKILLS!

SOON AFTER, I RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM AN OLD WOMAN WHO HAD LITTLE MONEY BUT PLENTY OF ARTS
IN EXCHANGE FOR WORK SHE ACQUIRED ME A NAME ONLY
WITH THAT IT BECAME UNLIKELY THAT I WOULD EVER BE CAUGHT BY THE MAN WHOSE SON I'D KILLED
AND SO, I BEGAN A HABIT OF GOING TO...
...DRURY LANE...
CHK
PARDON ME MISS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH MY... SUCH A GENTLE-MAN.
I...
...THEN FELL FOR AN ACTRESS

WE WERE TO MEET AT THE THEATRE (GOYA), DOLLEY LANE. AT THE END OF ROW D IN THE LOWER CIRCLE...
ON THE 22ND OF AUGUST 1782. I MIS-MISSED
...TO BLOOD WITH THAT TROUBLED WOMAN...

End of Chapter 12

...
NOPE... BUT NOT A GOOD ONE, PERHAPS...
...SUCH AN EVENTFUL LIFE, MR. GREY!

TRUE...
IF YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SO A WHILE AGO, WOULDN'T YOU?

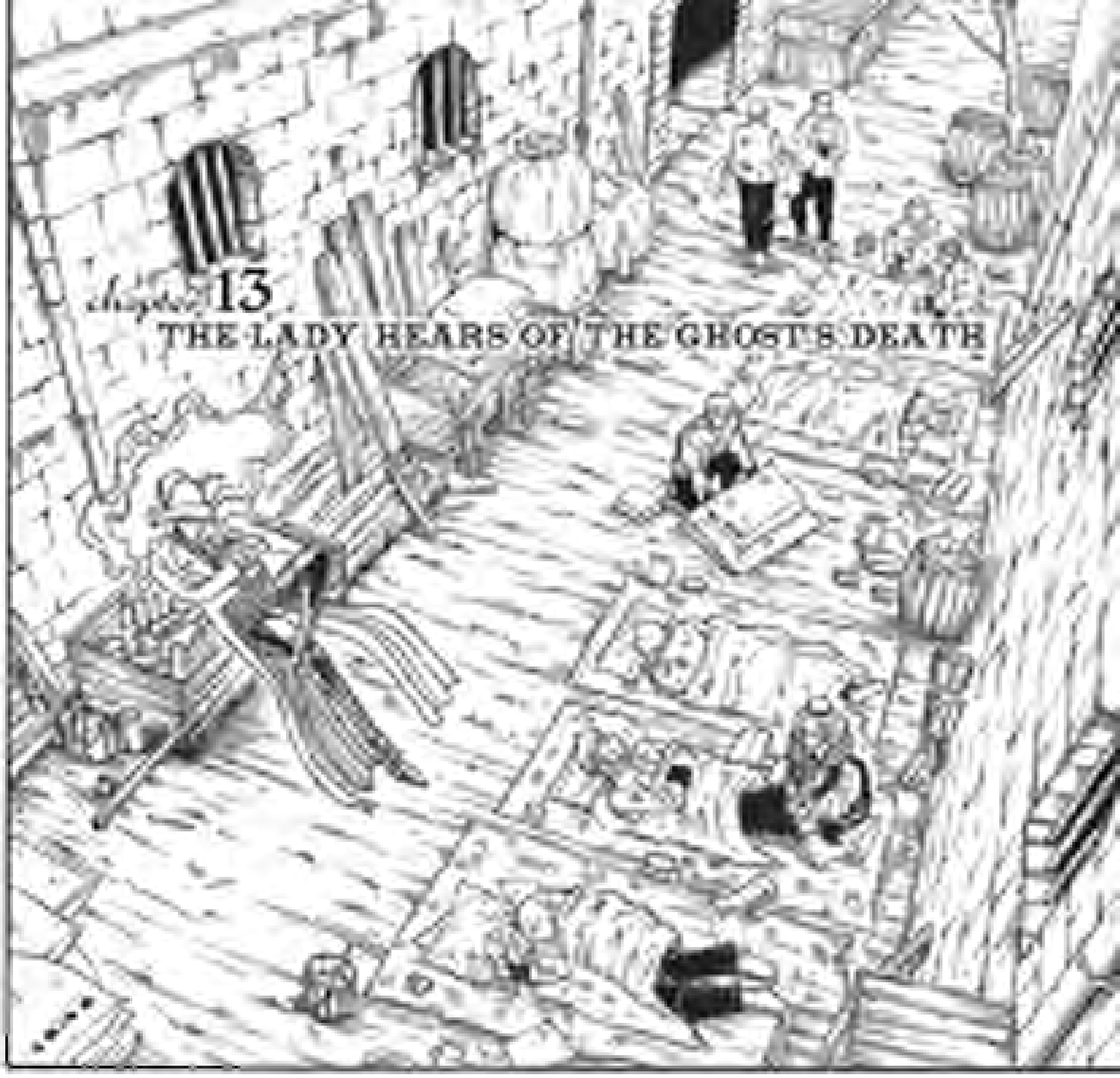
IT'S JUST... USUALLY PEOPLE GET SCARED WHEN I TELL THEM I WAS A KILLER.
WHAT IS IT?

...SHE... WAS A GOOD WOMAN.

YOU'RE REALLY BEEN...UTTER-NO...
YOU WERE JUST TELLING FLORENCE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT ACTRESS!

YOU'LL LIVE A LONG LIFE.
THEN I'M FINE!

NOW, CONTINUE YOUR TALE...
YOU KNOW IT, HEH HEH.


Chapter 13
THE LADY HEARS OF THE GHOST'S DEATH

AND ONE DAY, I ENCOUNTERED THE LEADING ACTRESS.
ENAMOURED OF PLAYS, I WENT OFTEN TO THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.
I HAD A NEW IDENTITY— AND CONTINUED TO DO BETTER FOR MYSELF AS A PROFESSIONAL DUELLIST.

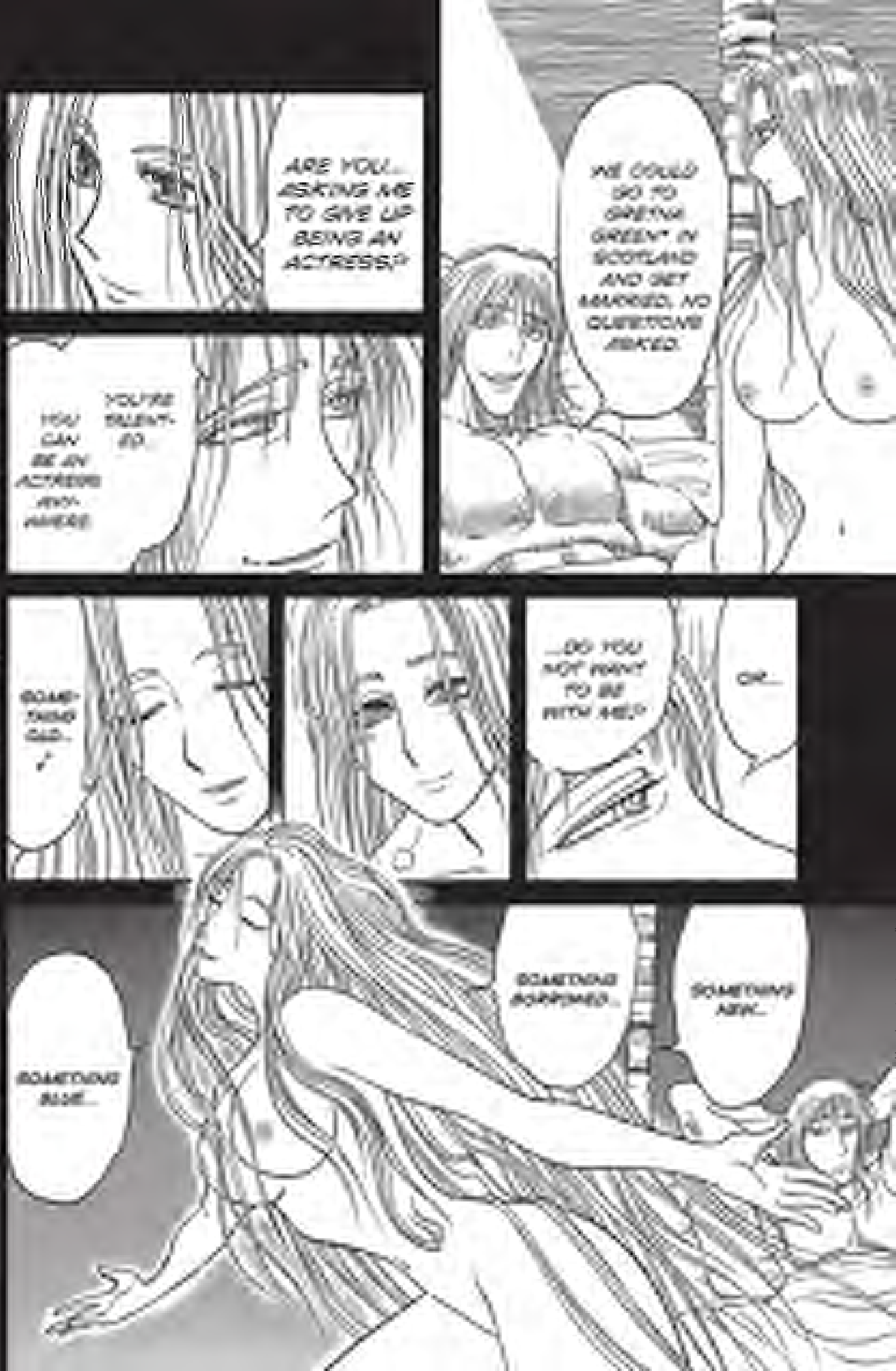
I GUESS I HAD BUMPED INTO HER AND KNOCKED HER DOWN!
SHE HAS THE ROLE OF PORTIA IN THE FIRST PLAY I'VE EVER SEEN THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
わあ
YAY!
わあ
OOH!
わあ
!!!
THAT'S IT FOR CHAR-LOTTE!
コン

AHAHAH... YOU SURE CAN DRINK
AHH...
IT'S... YOU TURN AWAY... JACK...
...MY GRACE... ...NOT FOR ME...
HEH HEH... HOWEVER... AHAHA YOU MAKE SUCH AN HONORABLE...
GOA
コト
TURN TO FOR THE LAD HERE!
カヒュ

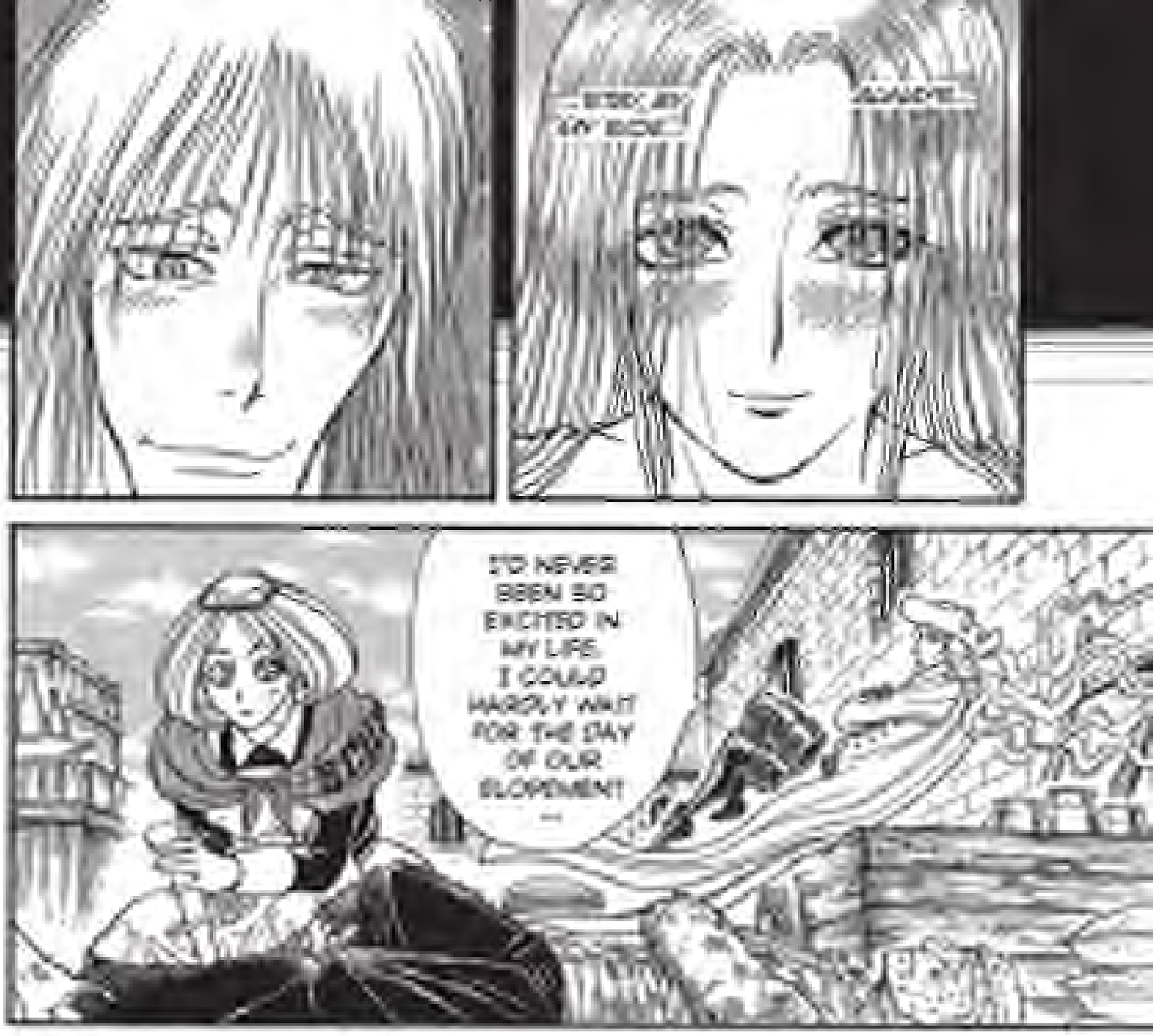
THE LOSER HAD TO DO WHATEVER THE WINNER WANTED, REMEMBER ...?
MY BODY —

...LOOK
BUT I...
YOU DID
DRAMATIC AND AWARD ACTRESS OF DRURY LANE, CHARLOTTE GODDARD

WE WERE A GOOD COUPLE.
...MET OFTEN
BUT WE...
NATURALLY SHE WASN'T FREE TO HAVE LOVERS AS SHE PLEASED.
AH... AS IF YOU'RE SO FUNNY, HUH?
THE LOOK OF YOUR FACE!
WHEN SHE TOLD ME TO LAUGH AND I TRIED TO DO SO...
AND I DON'T LAUGH MUCH.
SHE WAS OFTEN GIVEN TO BOISTEROUS LAUGHTER.
...DO YOU MEAN IT?
CHAR-LOTTE, WON'T YOU LIVE WITH ME...?"
BUT I LOVE IT.
NEVER LOSE THAT FUNNY GRIN OF YOURS.


ARE YOU... ASKING ME TO GIVE UP BEING AN ACTRESS?
WE COULD GO TO GRETNA GREEN* IN SCOTLAND AND GET MARRIED. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
YOU'RE TALENTED. YOU CAN BE AN ACTRESS AND MARRIED
SOMETHING OLD...
...DO YOU NOT WANT TO BE WITH ME?
OR...
SOMETHING BLUE...
SOMETHING BORROWED...
SOMETHING NEW...

AND A SILVER SIX PENCE IN MY SHOE
YOU MAY ANOTHER SCORE OF YOUR SOMETHINGS + THEYRE PRESENTS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE
WILL YOU GIVE THEM TO ME?
I WON'T ACCEPT ANY THING GREAT
I'M SO HAPPY THANK YOU, MOM!
TAKE IT! WHEW
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT BUT
ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE!


I'D NEVER BEEN SO EXCITED IN MY LIFE. I COULD HARDLY WAIT FOR THE DAY OF OUR ELOPEMENT!
I "BORROWED" A NOBLEWOMAN'S BRACELET FROM A DRINKING COMPANION.
THE "NEW" WAS A HANDKERCHIEF OF THE FINEST, WHITE LACE.
...FOR A RUBY AND EMERALD BROACH.
FOR THE "OLD," I PAID A FINE SUM TO AN ANTIQUE SHOP.

I WAS SO ELATED THAT I WANTED TO KISS EVERYONE WHO PASSED ME IN THE STREETS...
...THE FOOL THAT I WAS. I WAS AS HAPPY AS COULD BE...
I BOUGHT THE "BLUE" FROM THE BEST JEWELLER IN LONDON.
IT WAS A LUCKY GATHER END.
I THOUGHT THAT I'D LIKE TO MAKE IT AS WARM AND HAPPY AS CAN BE.
I HAD NEVER HAD A REAL FAMILY...AND NOW I WOULD HAVE MY OWN HOUSEHOLD.
IT WAS OUT OF CHARAC-TER FOR ME...
...I TRULY WAS A FOOL...
OH— THEN P

I HAVE TO MEET YOU WHEN AFTER HER LAST SHOW TONIGHT
THE SIX OF OUR FRIENDS WENT TO THE END OF THE ROAD

AFTER THAT WE WOULD GRANT LONDON TOMORROW
SHE HAS TO ORGANISE HERSELF AND MEET ME THERE AFTER LEAVING THE WHITE ROOM

I WENT TO THE TOP OF IT, THE UPPER CIRCLE WHERE WE WOULDN'T BE SEEN

THE FOUR WOMEN WERE FLOCKED AWAY IN AN ARMED ROOM

THAT'S WHAT WE HAD AGREED

カキャ
...AFTER GREET-ING MY ADDRESS WITH A PRESENT FOR HER...
AH, SO IT IS YOU.
YES ?
...
MADEMOISELLE JACK ASHER ?
YOU ARE ...?
...WITH THE DELIVERY OF A LETTER FROM YOU
A GENTLEMAN WHO TRUSTED ME

Good night, good night!
Parting is such
sweet sorrow
that I shall say
good night till
it be morrow

~ Romeo and Juliet

...IT'S ONE THING TO SCREECH WE HAVE ARRIVED, BUT YOU CANNOT STEAL HER AWAY.
...AND HER... HOW A SUV AND MA- CHINE IN BRITAIN WERE
THAT IS WHY HE NEED ME.
ANK
...IS A BARON, AND HE'S QUITE VEXED WITH YOU
AURA, ARE YOU
HE ASKED THAT I STAND IN HIS PLACE TO DUEL YOU
HE... ASKED YOU TO... KILL ME?

WELL, DUPLICITY DOES INCLUDE MONEY
AND I MUST ADMIT- THAT'S MISELLE WITH THE BARON
YOU'RE A DUELLIST, ARE YOU NOT?
DOESN'T THIS FALL UNDER THE CODE OF HONOUR?
...
...
THUS, HERE AND NOW, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL
...THAT I GRANT YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ME!
THEREFORE, THE CODE OF HONOUR DEMANDS
YOU HAVE STOLEN THE WOMAN OF SOMEONE TO WHOM I AM GREATLY INDEBTED
I SHOULD HAVE FELT IT ODD THAT THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DUEL WITHOUT A WITNESS PRESENT, BUT
EH, DARCE?
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT ARE GOING ON... AND I DIDN'T CARE...
...EH...

I FELT TERRIBLE AND WAS FULLY PAYED 1 OR 2 EIGHT
"I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS"...
MY MOTHER AND MY FRIEND... ABANDONED ME...
I GUESS BETRAYAL...

...WAS ALWAYS TO BE MY FATE...
AGATA, JACK.
AND THAT WAS MY END.
Devil's Slaughter 48
Brian

WORKS CITED

A Traveller. *The Art of Dwelling*. Obscure Press. [1836] 2006.

Russell, William Howard. *Despatches from the Crimea*. Edited by Nicholas Bentley. Frontline Books. 2008.

"The Crimea." *Times [London, England]*, October 12, 1854, 7.

"The Crimea Expedition." *Times [London, England]*, September 28, 1854, 7.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

History of Britain & Ireland. DK Publishing. [2011] 2014.

Weapons: A Visual History of Arms and Armor. DK Publishing. [2006] 2016.

Hyken, Jeremy. "The Complete Works of Shakespeare." http://shakespeare.mit.edu/

Moncrief, Martin. *Dwelling: Memories, Techniques, et Bizarreries du Comfort Singulier des Origines à Nos Jours*. Sand & Echos. 1991.

Black Museum Dramatis Personae
Florence Nightingale and William Howard Russell

By Zack Davisson

My mother and wife are separated by generations, cultures, languages, and countries, but they share something important in common: they are both nurses. When graduating nursing school, they both held candles high and recited—one in English and one in Japanese—the Nightingale Pledge.

Nurses worldwide have recited the Nightingale Pledge since it was written in 1893 by Lystra Gretter. While Florence Nightingale didn't write the pledge herself, it was inspired by her tireless efforts, and named in her honor in recognition of her role as the founder of modern nursing. If you have ever been to a hospital, or received any care from a nurse, you owe a debt of gratitude to the woman who was known in her lifetime as the Lady with the Lamp. She transformed the role of nurses from a contemptible occupation for the poor and destitute to a respected part of medical treatment.

Born in 1820 to wealth and privilege, Nightingale spent most of her life relaxing in her family's lush estates or traveling the world in pleasant company. Her comfortable life was planned out for her: a good marriage followed by respectable motherhood. But at age 17, she heard the first of what she believed were calls from God to live a life of service devoted to the less fortunate. Nightingale felt she could do this by becoming a nurse. She faced fierce opposition from her family, and had to educate herself in secret on science and medicine. Nightingale continued her studies while traveling, and then in 1850 in Cairo, Egypt, God repeated the call with more insistence. She felt God commanded her to "do good for him alone without reputation."

Empowered by this, she rebelled against her parents and the restrictive social code placed on upper-class women. Nightingale travelled to Kaiserswerth-am-Rhein in Germany where she received formal medical education at the Institution of Kaiserswerth. Returning in 1853, she used her

education and social connections to be named Lady Superintendent at the Establishment for Gentlewomen During Temporary Illness in Upper Harley Street, London. With the aid of a generous annual allowance from her father, she endeavored to reform the facility and put into practice her education and ideas. Her story might have ended there, but in 1853, Russia invaded the Danubian principalities (modern-day Romania), drawing in an alliance of France, the United Kingdom, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia. This outbreak of the Crimean War and William Howard Russell further changed her destiny.

In his own way as much of a pioneer as Nightingale, journalist William Howard Russell was one of the first of what we would call a war correspondent. A reporter with the London-based newspaper, the *Times*, Russell spent 22 months covering the Crimean War. Considered a "vulgar, low Irishman," Russell ignored the commanding officers bent on glory and wandered amongst the frontline troops, giving eyewitness accounts of the terrible conflict delivered daily into the homes of the British public. He wrote a first-hand record of the disastrous charge of the British light cavalry force led by Lord Cardigan against Russian forces that would later inspire Alfred, Lord Tennyson's narrative poem The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Unlike other reporters, Russell was not interested in patriotic propaganda and heroic rhetoric. His dispatches were the first time the British public could read about the reality—and horror—of war. Russell wrote honest articles, focusing on the suffering of the wounded at military field hospitals. He described the "humane barbarity" of battlefield surgeons operating in mud and filth. Bemoaning the lack of nurses, in a plea to the public, Russell wrote: "Are none of the daughters of England at this extreme hour of need, ready for such a work of mercy?" It was a call to action. Florence Nightingale would answer.

With the support of former Secretary of War Sidney Herbert, in 1854, Nightingale left her post as Lady Superintendent to travel to the Selimiye Barracks in Scutari (modern day Istanbul). Leading a team of 38 nurses, Nightingale found the field hospital in shocking conditions. More soldiers were dying of disease and malnutrition than of their wounds. Again facing opposition from medical officers who did not want to acknowledge their shoddy care, Nightingale championed simple reforms such as hand-washing

and nutrition. She used her own money and resources to buy supplies. Through her efforts, she was able to reduce the death rate by 50%.

It was in Scutari that she was given her name: "The Lady with the Lamp." During her nighttime rounds, Nightingale carried a simple oil lamp to check on wounded soldiers. Many remembered the hope and comfort they felt as they saw that light coming their way. "The Lady with the Lamp" was later immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, Santa Filomena.

The wounded from the battle-plain,
In dreary hospitals of pain,
The cheerless corridors,
The cold and stony floors.

Lo! in that house of misery
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering gloom,
And flit from room to room.

While Russell continued to report, Nightingale began to inspire. The British public was hungry for a hero, and Florence Nightingale fit the bill perfectly. She became one of the most famous women in the United Kingdom. People on the home front organized donation drives for her, and Queen Victoria herself knitted socks for soldiers under Nightingale's care. After the war, Queen Victoria would summon Nightingale to Balmoral Castle, where she was presented with the Order of Merit, amongst many other honors.

Upon her return, Florence Nightingale used her fame to further her calling and ideas. She found strength in writing, expounding on nursing and encouraging basic sanitation and hygiene practices. Nightingale wrote in basic English for a wide audience. She emphasized the role of women, becoming one of the earliest feminist voices and inspiring writers like Virginia Woolf. And she opened the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, the world's first secular nursing school. Now part of King's College London, the school is considered the foremost nursing academy in Britain. Its graduates are known as "Nightingales."

KODANSHA COMICS

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

READ THE NEW SERIES FROM THE CREATOR OF FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST, HIROMU ARAKAWA! NOW A HIT TV SERIES!

"Anyone going to be making their way to the pub of choosing fantasy novels and fans of manga or epic fantasy will be quite pleased with the resulting book."
—Anime News Network

ECBATANA IS BURNING!

Arslan is the young and curious prince of Pars who, despite his best efforts doesn't seem to have what it takes to be a proper king like his father. At the age of 14, Arslan goes to his first battle and loses everything as the blood-soaked mist of war gives way to scorching flames, bringing him to face the demise of his once glorious kingdom. However, it is Arslan's destiny to be a ruler, and despite the trials that face him, he must now embark on a journey to reclaim his fallen kingdom.

Available now in print and digitally!

© Hiromu Arakawa/Yoshiki Tanaka/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

DON'T MISS THE MOST ACCLAIMED ACTION MANGA OF 2013!

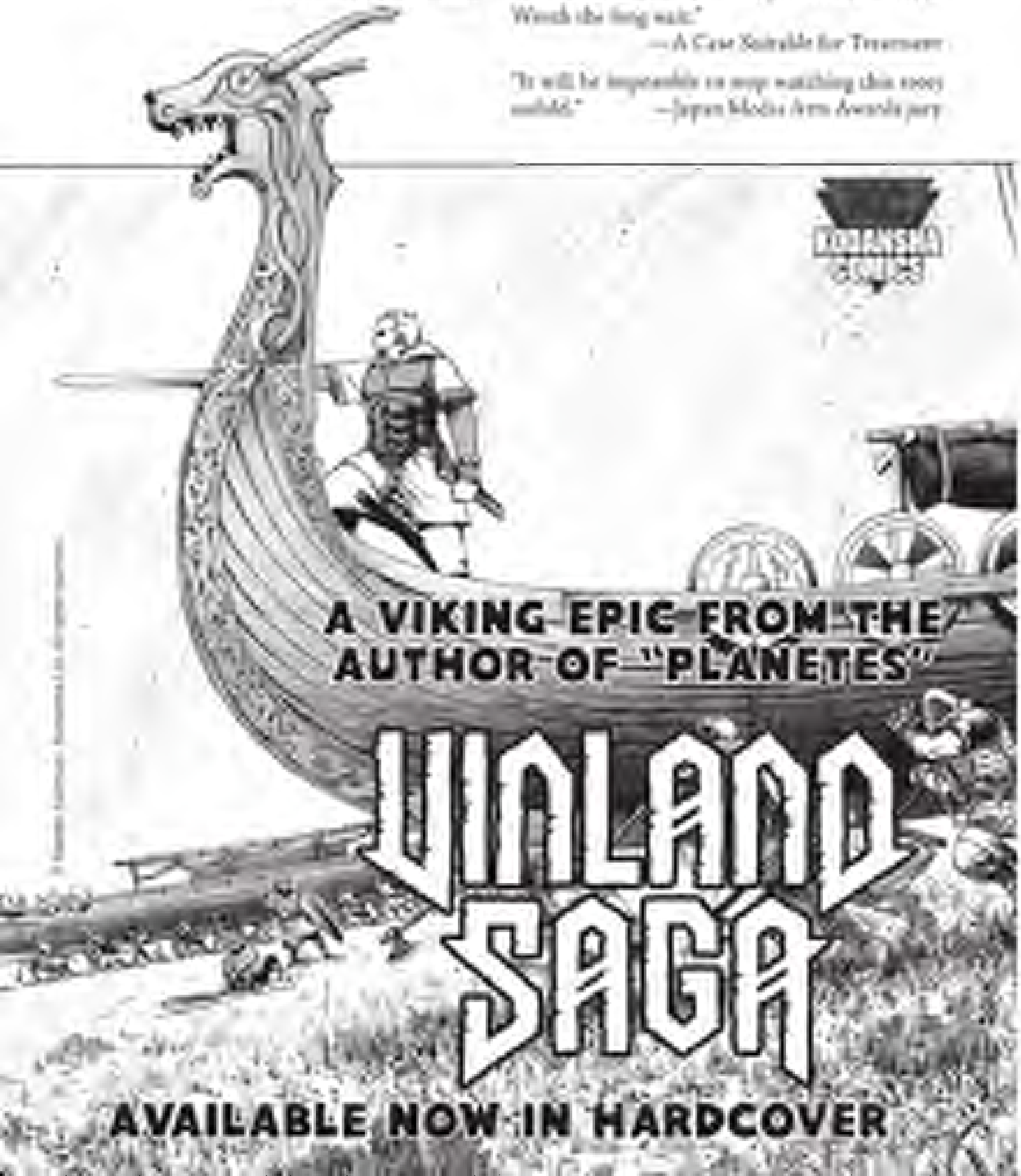
"Gripping doesn't begin to describe Vinland Saga. 5 stars."
—IGN

"Deeply engrossing... If you have any interest at all in Vikings, the Medieval period or pirates, this is not a series you want to miss."
—Anime News Network

"The art is gorgeous, a combination of beautiful cartooning and realistic backgrounds. Yukimura is also a master of pacing, both in frenetic battle scenes and charged emotional moments."
—Patrick Brice Hicks, Friends With Boys

"For those who love Berserk, you'll love this too... Worth the long wait."
—A Case Suitable for Treatment

"It will be impossible to stop watching this story unfold."
—Japan Media Arts Awards jury



INUYASHIKI

A superhero like none you've ever seen from the creator of "Gantz"!

Ichiro Inuyashiki is down on his luck. He looks much older than his 58 years, his children despise him, and his wife thinks he's a useless coward. So when he's diagnosed with stomach cancer and given three months to live, it seems the only one who'll miss him is his dog.

Then a blinding light fills the sky, and the old man is killed... only to wake up later in a body he almost recognizes as his own. Can it be that Ichiro Inuyashiki is no longer human?

Comes in extra-large editions with color pages!

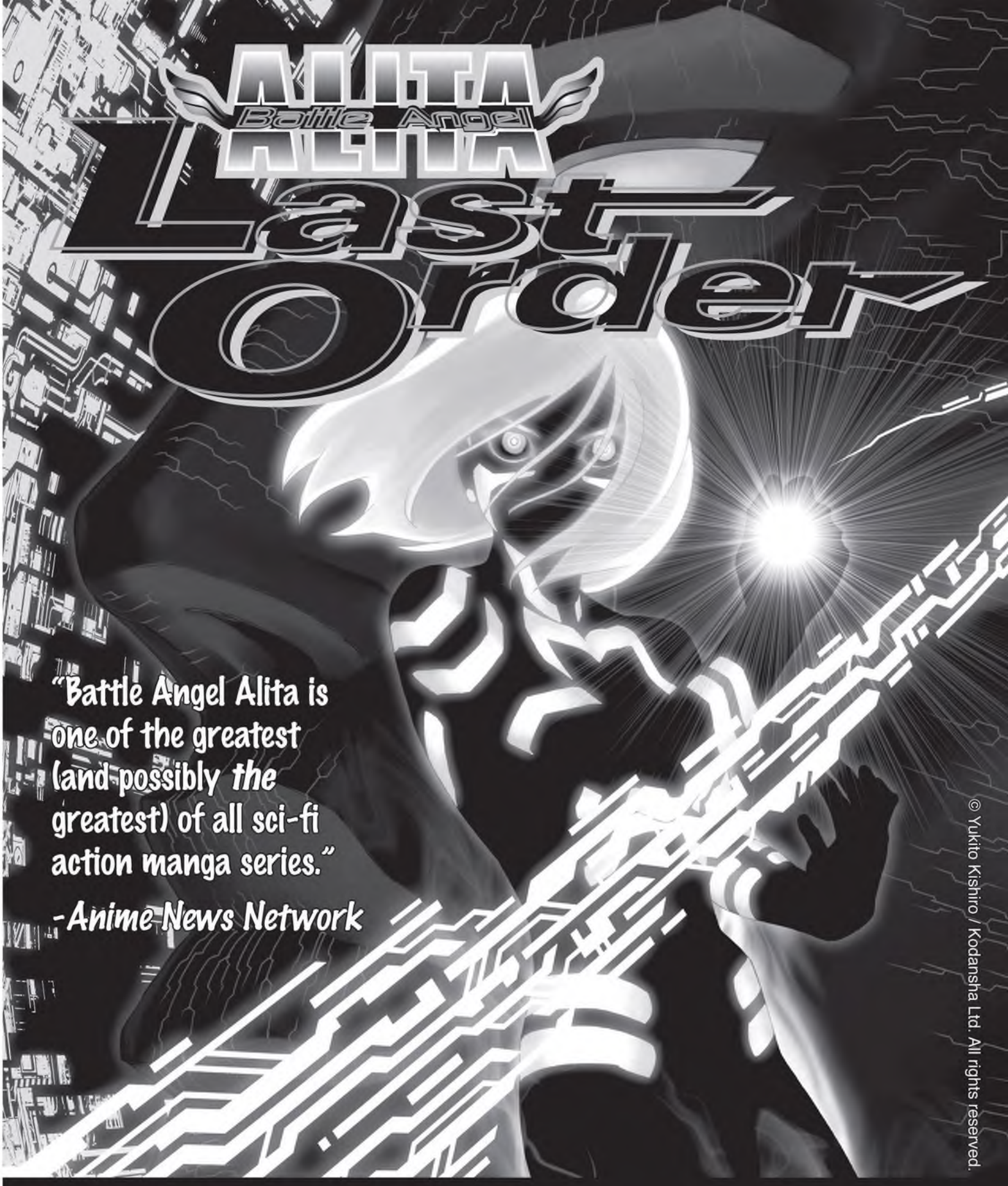
KODANSHA COMICS

a silent voice
KC
KODANSHA COMICS
"The word heartwarming was made for manga like this." –Manga Bookshelf
"A harsh and biting social commentary... delivers in its depth of character and emotional strength." -Comics Bulletin
"A very powerful story about being different and the consequences of childhood bullying... Read it." –Anime News Network

Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

Available now in print and digitally!

© Yoshitoki Oima/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.


Battle Angel Alita
Last Order
"Battle Angel Alita is one of the greatest (and possibly *the* greatest) of all sci-fi action manga series."
-Anime News Network
© Yukito Kishiro / Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

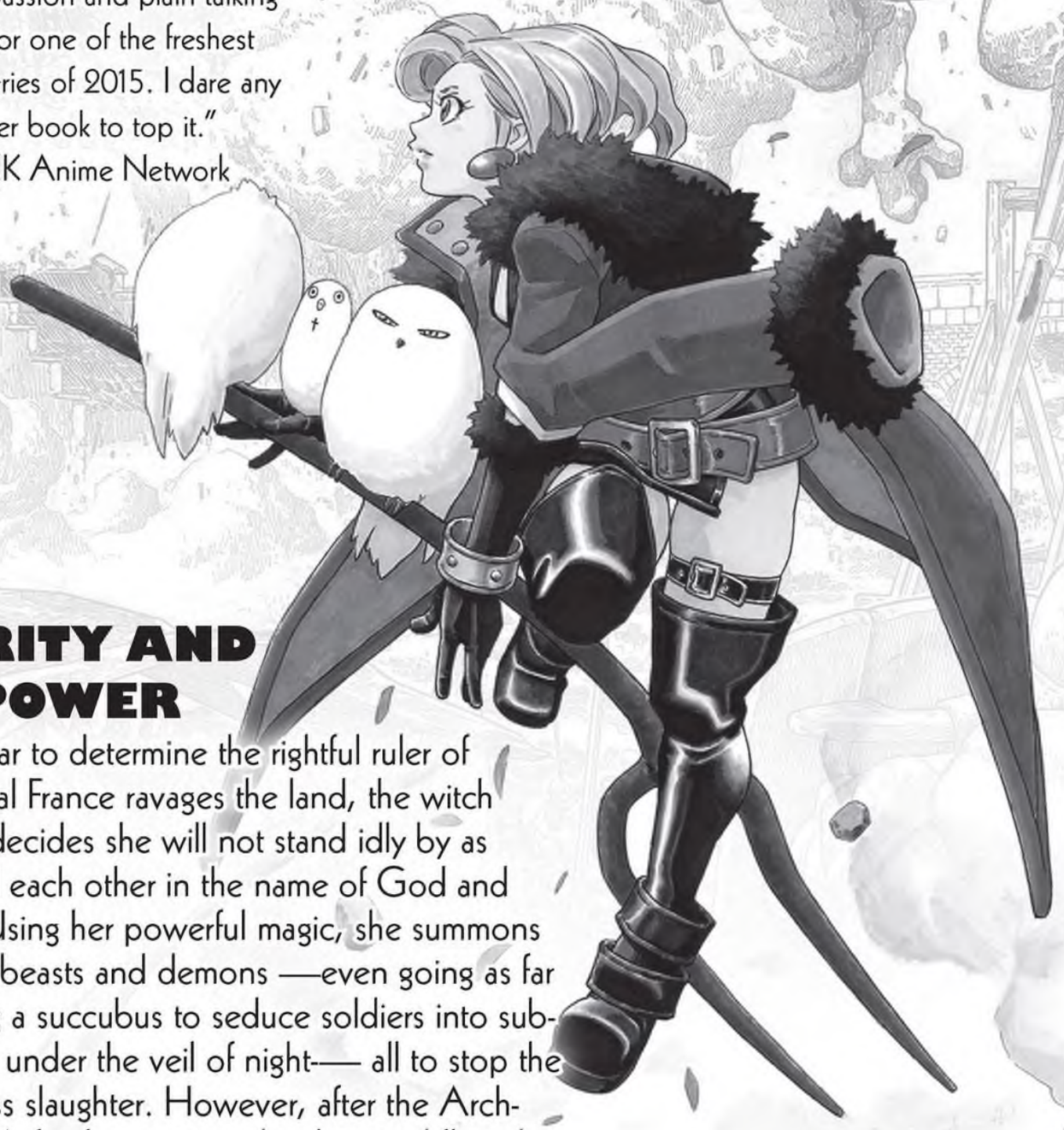
The Cyberpunk Legend is Back!

In deluxe omnibus editions of 600+ pages, including ALL-NEW original stories by Alita creator Yukito Kishiro!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Maria
THE VIRGIN WITCH

"Maria's brand of righteous justice, passion and plain talking make for one of the freshest manga series of 2015. I dare any other book to top it."
—UK Anime Network



PURITY AND POWER

As a war to determine the rightful ruler of medieval France ravages the land, the witch Maria decides she will not stand idly by as men kill each other in the name of God and glory. Using her powerful magic, she summons various beasts and demons —even going as far as using a succubus to seduce soldiers into submission under the veil of night-— all to stop the needless slaughter. However, after the Archangel Michael puts an end to her meddling, he curses her to lose her powers if she ever gives up her virginity. Will she forgo the forbidden fruit of adulthood in order to bring an end to the merciless machine of war?
Available now in print and digitally!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

©Mayasuki Ishikawa /Kodansha, Ltd. All rights reserved.

The Ghost and The Lady 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

The Black Museum: The Ghost and the Lady Book One copyright © 2015 Kazuhiro Fujita
English translation copyright © 2016 Kazuhiro Fujita

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334614

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Zack Davisson
Lettering: Evan Hayden
Editing and additional research: Ajani Oloye
Editorial assistance: Mark Gallucci
Cultural consultation: Finola Austin [www.secretvictorianist.com]
Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman